

# METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES, &c.

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 26 June 1866 ;—for,

COPY “of the REPORT of Dr. *Edward Smith*, LL. B., F. R. S., Poor Law Inspector and Medical Officer to the Poor Law Board, on the METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES and SICK WARDS.”

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Poor Law Board, }  
26 June 1866. }

ENFIELD,  
Secretary.

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REPORT of Dr. *Edward Smith*, LL. B., F. R. S., Medical Officer to the Poor Law Board, and Poor Law Inspector, on the METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES and SICK WARDS.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

19 June 1866.

In your letter of the 3d April 1866, Mr. Farnall and myself were instructed to make a careful inspection of the infirmary wards of the several metropolitan workhouses, and to inquire into the existing arrangements for the care of the sick. Our attention was specially directed to the adequacy of the accommodation provided in respect of the size and ventilation and suitableness of the wards and their beds and bedding, and other furniture ; to the sufficiency of the arrangements for the supply of medical attendance and medicines ; and to the provision for the nursing and care of the sick. We were also requested to suggest such alterations as might appear to us advisable in the present system, and the arrangements of each workhouse, in order to secure satisfactory treatment and care for the sick poor of the metropolis.

I have now the honour to state that we completed the inspection of those workhouses on the 1st June 1866, and to report the result of such inspection and inquiry.

The course pursued by us in conducting the inquiry, was to visit the various workhouses during the daytime without giving notice of our intention to do so ; and in nearly all cases we were accompanied by the master and medical officer. We were also accompanied by a gentleman who measured the wards, except those at Lambeth, and made the various calculations upon which the tables are founded.

Mode of conducting the inquiry.

As our investigations were restricted to the arrangements for the sick, the first duty was to arrive at a conclusion as to the persons who should be regarded as of that class.

The classes of inmates in a workhouse are the able-bodied, the aged and infirm, imbeciles, and children ; and such of them are accounted sick as have been placed upon the medical relief book by the medical officer. All the cases which were found in the detached infirmaries, or in separate sick wards, were clearly of that class, but those by no means comprehended the whole ; and it became necessary to extend our inquiries to the wards of the aged and infirm, and lunatics, and in some instances even to the wards of the children. The aged and infirm were not as a body classed as sick, but many of them being bedridden, or afflicted with temporary increase of some special disorder, as, for example, bronchitis, were permanently or temporarily so regarded, and were treated in their own wards.

In some workhouses the lunatics and imbeciles were warded separately from the general inmates, whilst in others they were placed in the general wards ; and the medical officer, at his own discretion, in one workhouse, considered them all as sick, and in another, regarded only such of them as sick as were suffering from bodily disease. In some the sick cases were treated in their own ordinary wards, whilst in others they were removed to the infirmary, or to the proper sick wards.

Mode of conducting the inquiry.

The children, except in two or three workhouses, were placed in schools apart from the workhouse; but all under a given age (two years in one workhouse, and four years in another), as well as those who were *in transitu* to the schools or were sick, were retained in the workhouse; and the sick cases were in one workhouse treated in the general nursery, in another in the sick nursery, and in a third in the infirmary or sick wards.

Hence it was evident that, in the discharge of our duty we must inspect other wards than those of the infirmary and the purely sick wards.

The next question was, as to where a line could be drawn at which our inspection might stop, so as not to include the whole establishment; and as it was impossible for us to determine this for ourselves, we arrived at the conclusion to regard all cases as sick who were upon the Medical Relief Book, to visit the wards where they were placed, and to submit to the diversity in the decisions of the medical officers which have been already referred to.

But two circumstances required our further consideration. Whenever in the opinion of the medical officer any person required extra diet his name was placed upon the Relief Book whether the diet were required simply on the ground of inability to masticate, or other infirmity of old age, or from distinct bodily disease; and as five-sixths of all the adults in the workhouse belonged to the class of aged and infirm, we learnt that the Medical Relief List was rather indicative of the persons receiving extra diet, than of a defined class of sick persons. Hence, if on entering a ward of the aged and infirm, containing, perhaps, 20 to 30 persons, not more than two or three of them were taking medicine, we did not regard it as an infirmary ward; but where a larger proportion, or the majority of the inmates were bedridden, or otherwise ill, we included the ward in our investigation.

Hence it soon became evident that the class, the arrangements for whose care it was our special duty to investigate, was not so well defined as at first appeared probable.

It was also important to determine the exact scope of our inquiries, so as to render our investigations in the different workhouses as nearly uniform as possible. The duties which had been confided to us were such as ordinarily devolve upon Poor Law Inspectors, and precisely such as would be performed by a medical man, who is at the same time an inspector. But the inspector, in making his ordinary inspections, not only has regard to the general fitness of the various parts, and of the arrangements of the workhouse, for the purposes to which they are devoted, but inquires into the condition of each sick person, and invites the inmates to make complaints on any matter which injuriously affects them. This attention to the individual cases appeared to be the duty of the Metropolitan Inspector, Mr. Farnall, in his periodical visits, whilst on the present occasion our duty seemed rather to be to determine, with great care and minuteness, the fitness of the workhouse and its organization and arrangements, for the care of the sick generally.

In pursuing our inquiry, we entered into and carefully inspected every part of the wards where the sick were found, and made notes of our observations, and of the answers of the nurses and other officials to our questions. We also examined the corridors, water closets, lavatories, and bath rooms adjoining those wards, and noted the general arrangements of the buildings, and the size and position of the yards; and at the end of each day's inspection, I detailed the information which I had gained, with the suggestions which I had to offer for the improvement of the workhouse, in special reports, which will be found in the Appendix.

Moreover, as the necessity for improved ventilation was at all times a subject of conversation, the alterations which were required to effect it, as well as the existing defects in furniture and general arrangements, were usually pointed out by us, and often noted by the master for his guidance.

After the inspection had been completed we conferred with the medical officer alone upon the nursing and medical care of the inmates, and the general sanitary arrangements of the workhouse.

In preparing the report upon each workhouse, I have considered the following subjects in their order, viz.: the classes of sick, number of inmates, general accommodation apart from the wards, the size and general character of the wards, the beds, bedding, furniture and utensils; cleanliness, ventilation, nursing and medical attendance; and have made such recommendations on each as the

case



case required. In this general report I purpose to give a summary of the whole results in the same order, and to treat the subject under three heads, viz : Mode of conducting the inquiry.

Part I.—DETAILS OF THE INSPECTION.

Part II.—GENERAL REVIEW AND SUGGESTIONS.

Part III.—GOVERNMENT AND SUPERVISION OF THE WORKHOUSES.

PART I.—DETAILS OF THE INSPECTION.

SITE.

Part I.  
DETAILS OF THE  
INSPECTION.

Site.

Workhouses  
visited.

WE have inspected 40 workhouses in the Metropolitan District, in the following order, viz. :

1	Lambeth - - - - -	Princes-road, Lambeth.
2	St. Saviour's - - - - -	Christchurch, Southwark.
3	Bermondsey - - - - -	Russell Street, Bermondsey.
4	St. Olave - - - - -	Parish-street, Southwark.
5	St. George-the-Martyr - - - - -	Mint-street, Southwark.
6	Greenwich - - - - -	Greenwich.
7	St. Marylebone - - - - -	Northumberland-street.
8	St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury.	Vinegar-yard, St. Giles.
9	St. Martin-in-the-Fields - - - - -	Castle-street, Leicester-square.
10	The Strand - - - - -	Cleveland-street, Fitzroy-square.
11	Holborn - - - - -	Gray's Inn-lane, Holborn.
12	Clerkenwell, St. James - - - - -	Farringdon-road, Clerkenwell.
13	Shoreditch, St. Leonard - - - - -	Kingsland-road.
14	Whitechapel - - - - -	Charles-street, Whitechapel.
15	Mile End, Old Town - - - - -	Mile End, Old Town.
16	City of London - - - - -	Bow-road, Mile End.
17	Stepney - - - - -	Bromley.
18	Poplar - - - - -	High-street, Poplar.
19	St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster.	Petty France, Westminster.
20	St. James, Westminster - - - - -	Poland-street, Oxford-street.
21	St. Mary Abbott, Kensington - - - - -	Kensington.
22	St. Margaret, Westminster - - - - -	Kensington.
23	St. George, Hanover-square - - - - -	Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.
24	Hackney - - - - -	St. John, Hackney.
25	East London - - - - -	Homerton.
26	Islington - - - - -	Liverpool-road, Islington.
27	Chelsea - - - - -	St. Luke, Chelsea.
28	St. George, Hanover-square - - - - -	Brompton.
29	Fulham - - - - -	Fulham.
30	St. George-in-the East - - - - -	Charles-street, Old Gravel-lane.
31	Rotherhithe, St. Mary - - - - -	Deptford Lower-road, Rotherhithe.
32	Paddington - - - - -	Paddington.
33	St. Pancras - - - - -	King's Road, St. Pancras-road.
34	Bethnal Green - - - - -	Bonner's Hall Field, Bethnal Green.
35	Camberwell, St. Giles - - - - -	St. Giles, Camberwell.
36	St. Luke, Middlesex - - - - -	City-road.
37	St. Mary, Newington - - - - -	Walworth.
38	Wandsworth and Clapham - - - - -	Battersea.
39	Hampstead - - - - -	Hampstead.
40	West London, Hornsey - - - - -	Meeting House-lane, Edmonton.

The following occupy suburban sites, and are built upon sufficiently large plots of land, viz. : Mile End, City of London, Stepney, Kensington, St. Margaret's at Kensington, East London, St. George's at Brompton, Fulham, Rotherhithe, Paddington, Bethnal Green, Hackney, Camberwell, St. Mary Newington, Wandsworth and Clapham, and West London. St. Pancras may also be added to this list, if not on account of its suburban site, on that of its large plot of land. Suburban.

The following are surrounded by buildings, have little or no spare land, and are situate in urban positions, viz. : Lambeth, St. George-the-Martyr, Clerkenwell, St. Margaret's Westminster, Islington, St. Saviour's, Bermondsey, St. Olave, Marylebone, St. Giles', St. Martin's, Strand, Holborn, Poplar, St. James's, St. George Hanover-square, Chelsea, St. George-in-the-East, and St. Luke Middlesex. Shoreditch and Whitechapel should also, perhaps, be added to this list, but they differ from the others in having been recently erected. Urban.

Hampstead occupies a position between these two classes, since it is suburban,

Part I.  
DETAILS OF THE  
INSPECTION.

Site.

Old.

ban, but has little or no spare land. It is, however, so situate that land may, I believe, be readily obtained.

The following are old workhouses, viz.: Lambeth, St. George the-Martyr, Clerkenwell, Islington, St. Saviour's, Bermondsey, Marylebone, St. Giles', St. Martin's, Strand, Holborn, Poplar, St. James's, St. George Hanover-square, Chelsea, St. George-in-the-East, St. Luke's, Camberwell, and Rotherhithe; but many of them have comparatively new infirmary buildings, as Rotherhithe, Camberwell, St. Luke's, St. George-in-the-East, Chelsea, St. Giles', St. Saviour's, and others.

New.

The following are new, or comparatively new workhouses, viz.:—Shoreditch, Whitechapel, Mile End, City of London, Stepney, Kensington, St. Margaret's at Westminster and Kensington, East London, St George's at Brompton, Fulham, Paddington, Bethnal Green, St. Mary Newington, Wandsworth, West London, and Hampstead; and to these may be added St. Pancras and Hackney.

Elevation.

The elevation of such of the workhouses as are placed upon, and near the banks of the river is low. Such are Lambeth, St. George-the-Martyr, St. Saviour's, St. Olave, Rotherhithe, Poplar, St. George-in-the-East, and Bermondsey. That of the others is higher; and a large majority are altogether removed from the influence of the river level.

Drainage.

Only two workhouses were said to have defective drainage, viz.:—Bermondsey and Lambeth. The sewers of the former were said to be sometimes inundated by the tide, and the drains of the latter were stated to be very frequently under repair. We did not perceive any evidence of bad drainage at either place. At Whitechapel, St. Luke's, St. Pancras, St. Margaret's at Kensington, and a few others, we perceived drain smells from defective trapping of certain pipes.

Closely surrounded.

Many of the older workhouses are closely surrounded by buildings, which contain populations more or less dense, and lessen the opportunity for free ventilation.

Such are particularly Lambeth, St. George-the-Martyr, St. Saviour's, St. George-in-the-East, Poplar, Chelsea, St. James, Holborn, Strand, St Giles, Clerkenwell, St. Margaret's Westminster, and Islington; and from the nature of the case nearly all the urban workhouses, as nearly all other urban buildings, must be placed in the same class.

All the suburban workhouses are placed in open localities, and some of the urban ones, as St. George, Hanover-square, are not surrounded by a dense population.

General Salubrity.

The general salubrity of the sites of all the workhouses, except those on the river level, is undoubted; and in reference to the latter it must not be inferred that they are less salubrious than other buildings in the same localities. There was no evidence presented to us which indicated insalubrity, and it is only the higher rate of general mortality in several of these districts that warrants a doubt respecting them. At the same time, if opposing reasons did not exist, no one could hesitate to prefer their removal to a higher level.

The site of the newly-built workhouses, as of many others, is very salubrious.

*Classes of the Sick.*

CLASSES OF THE SICK.

Fever and Small-pox.

With the exception of Paddington and Poplar, there is no workhouse where developed fever cases\* are willingly or usually retained; but such cases, as also those of small-pox, are sent to the fever and small-pox hospitals. At Poplar and Fulham there are special buildings appropriated to both fever and small pox cases, and at Paddington small-pox cases are sent to the hospital. There are, however, several workhouses where cases of fever are occasionally retained, as the City of London, Lambeth, Bethnal Green, St. George-the-Martyr, St. Giles, and others; and where there are no separate fever wards, such cases are placed, with more or less separation, in wards with other cases. This want of complete isolation is much to be regretted; but the medical officers stated, that they had never known any injury to follow this arrangement.

In only about one-fourth of the workhouses are there any special fever wards at the present time.

This

\* By this term is signified cases of typhus, typhoid, and scarlet fever, and not simple fever, attending various affections, as measles or colds.



This state of things is only of recent occurrence, yet it appears now to have become so general as to be almost universal. It has also been of great convenience in the Poor Law Administration, for a class of cases requiring special watchfulness, and large cubical and floor space, and the care of some of which is necessarily attended with some danger to the nurses, has been transferred to excellently managed institutions, set apart for those special classes, and the cost to the guardians has been less than that of treating them in the workhouses. The difficulty of want of space in the Fever Hospital has frequently arisen, and the very serious inconvenience of taking back the patient to the workhouse has resulted; but the energy and philanthropy of the managers of the Fever Hospital have recently enabled them to receive nearly all cases which have been sent from the workhouses.

There is, however, the uncertainty of their reception always present; and temporary provision for the reception of a case has to be occasionally made in many workhouses.

A similar difficulty has also existed in reference to the Small-Pox Hospital, and several cases are now unable to gain admission.

But it will scarcely exceed the truth to state that neither fever nor small-pox cases are now admitted into the workhouses.

Itch cases are received into all the workhouses, and in a majority they are not placed in separate wards, but occupy a foul ward in common with venereal or bad leg cases; or are placed in the receiving wards, with more or less isolation. Twelve workhouses have no separate itch ward for either one or both sexes. Itch.

The use of the solution of sulphur and lime, to which I called the attention of the medical profession in England 15 years ago, is now somewhat frequent in the workhouses; and the cases are therefore less offensive when under treatment, and are more quickly cured than when the sulphur ointment had been used.

Venereal cases are sent to the Lock Hospital from nearly every workhouse, and but few, and those the doubtful or milder cases, are retained. The Government have placed 20 beds at the disposal of the guardians at Greenwich; and most of the Boards of Guardians subscribe to the Lock. Yet there are commonly some cases retained in the workhouses, and placed in separate wards, or they are mixed with the general inmates, or placed with itch and other diseases in foul wards. This practical exclusion has also been found a convenient arrangement, on account of the desirability on moral grounds of preventing communication between such persons and the less immoral inmates of workhouses. Venereal Disease.

The difficulty already pointed out in reference to fever and small-pox cases, had also been experienced in the removal of this class, viz., the insufficiency of the accommodation at the Lock Hospital.

No inconsiderable number of this class are received from the casual wards and houses of refuge.

Hence only a small number of this class of cases are found in the workhouses, — a small minority of those who seek admission.

With very few exceptions the children are placed in district, separate, or other schools, under the inspection of the Poor Law Board, apart from the workhouses, and only those are retained who are *in transitu* to the school, who are too young to be sent there, or who are sick. When the schools do not belong to the parish the guardians pay a certain sum (about 5 s. 6 d. per week) for each child, for board, lodging, clothing, medical attendance and education. Children.

Among the workhouses which have schools on the same premises as the workhouse, but usually distinct from it, are Mile End Old Town, St. George's at Brompton, Fulham, and St. Margaret's at Kensington.

The sick children are not always treated apart from the adults, for in some workhouses, as St. Giles and St. Luke's, there is no sick nursery; but in many, as St. Paneras, there is a sick nursery in which they are placed. The absence of a sick nursery is a too general defect.

Hence there are children in all workhouses, but, speaking in general terms, they are a very small minority of those who are under the care of the guardians.

As the able-bodied are found in very small numbers in all except three or four workhouses, the inmates consist chiefly of the aged and infirm, and the sick, properly so called; and the classes of sick above mentioned having been eliminated, chronic cases and the aged and infirm constitute nearly the whole.

Part I  
DETAILS OF THE  
INSPECTION.

*Classes of the Sick.*

On the day of our visit the total number of inmates was about 23,500, of whom less than one-tenth were able-bodied.

From a Parliamentary Return prepared by the Poor Law Board in May 1865 (House of Commons, No. 312), it appeared that there were in the metropolitan workhouses, on 28th January of that year, upwards of 1,400 afflicted with acute, and upwards of 6,000 with chronic, diseases.\*

*Summary.*

Hence it appears that the workhouses are now homes for the aged and infirm, a last refuge for destitute sick persons, places where a great number of women give birth to illegitimate children, and a temporary shelter for tramps and very destitute persons suffering from some disease. They are not, on the one hand, workhouses in the sense of institutions where the inmates are able to work, or where labour is exacted; neither, on the other, are they hospitals where all are sick and temporarily received and treated, but asylums where the aged and infirm are provided for during life; and where consumptive and other chronic cases, most of whom have been in-patients or out-patients of hospitals, and, being entirely without resources, end their days. They are institutions *sui generis*, and fulfil a purpose not contemplated by any others.

*Number of  
Inmates.*

NUMBER OF INMATES.

The following Table shows the number of inmates in the workhouses at the period of our inspection.

TABLE No. 1.

TOTAL Number of INMATES and the Number of the ABLE-BODIED in the WORKHOUSES at the Period of our Visit.

		Total.	Able-Bodied.			Total.	Able-Bodied.
1	Lambeth, St. Mary - -	879	132	21	Kensington - - -	440	75
2	St. Saviour's - - -	405	42	22	St. Margaret, Kensington	647	90
3	Bermondsey, St. Mary Magdalen.	531	154	23	St. George, Hanover-square	265	30
4	St. Olave's - - -	277	48	24	Hackney - - -	573	10
5	St. George the Martyr - -	404	17	25	East London - - -	656	245
6	Greenwich - - -	884	9	26	Islington, St. Mary - -	470	27
7	St. Marylebone - - -	1,703	65	27	St. George, at Brompton -	320	45
8	St. Giles - - -	667	38	28	Chelsea - - -	453	17
9	St. Martin-in-the-Fields -	437	47	29	Fulham - - -	312	12
10	Strand - - -	556	44	30	Rotherhithe, St. Mary -	194	36
11	Holborn - - -	459	26	31	St. George-in-the-East -	770	30
12	Clerkenwell, St. James -	529	32	32	St. Pancras - - -	1,960	296
13	Shoreditch, St. Leonard -	784	56	33	Paddington - - -	385	41
14	Whitechapel - - -	692	45	34	Bethnal Green - - -	1,175	43
15	City of London - - -	844	120	35	St. Luke, Middlesex -	581	33
16	Mile-End Old Town - -	530	13	36	Camberwell, St. Giles -	404	18
17	Stepney - - -	558	59	37	St. Mary, Newington -	482	180
18	Poplar - - -	472	67	38	Wandsworth and Clapham	524	19
19	St. Margaret, Westminster	179	8	39	Hampstead - - -	114	26
20	St. James, Westminster -	614	42	40	West London - - -	456	14

*Single beds.*

Each inmate almost universally occupied a separate bed, except in the case of children, and of women with children; but in one or two wards of a very few workhouses double beds were used for the sick. Thus, in one ward at St. George-the-Martyr, the aged women, some of whom were sick, slept two in a bed; and in another ward four or six infants were placed, heels to heels, in one bed; whilst at St. Pancras and Clerkenwell two women and their children sometimes occupied one bed in the lying-in ward. Such an arrangement was very improper; but the exceptions in reference to adults were so exceedingly few that they only served to confirm the rule of the use of single beds.

\* We have obtained from the medical officers a Return showing, among other particulars, the number of sick in the several workhouses for three periods in 1865-6. This Return has been presented to the House of Lords, and is now in the course of being printed. The total number of inmates, including the able-bodied and sick, on the day of our visit in each case is stated in the Tables contained in the present Report.



## CUBICAL AND FLOOR SPACE.

The following Table gives the usual cubical and floor space, in sick wards occupied both by day and night, in the different workhouses :

TABLE No. 2.

USUAL CUBICAL and FLOOR SPACE in the INFIRMARY and SICK WARDS.

Part I.  
DETAILS OF THE  
INSPECTION.

Cubical and Floor  
Space.

		Cubical Space.	Floor Space.			Cubical Space.	Floor Space.
		<i>Cubic Feet.</i>	<i>Sup. Feet.</i>			<i>Cubic Feet.</i>	<i>Sup. Feet.</i>
1	Lambeth, St. Mary -	315 to 879	42 to 68	22	St. Margaret, Kensington	529 to 825	48 to 73
2	St. Saviour's -	525 to 855	47 to 56	23	St. George, Hanover-square.	593 to 832	60 to 89
3	Bermondsey, St. Mary Magdalen.	352 to 709	42 to 71	24	Hackney - - -	395 to 590	41 to 59
4	St. Olave's - - -	554 to 693	50 to 63	25	East London - - -	436 to 599	37 to 50
5	St. George-the-Martyr -	324 to 656	33 to 75	26	Islington, St. Mary -	410 to 669	53 to 69
6	Greenwich - - -	394 to 525	42 to 53	27	St. George, at Brompton	667 to 999	58 to 85
7	St. Marylebone - - -	488 to 794	43 to 63	28	Chelsea - - -	421 to 657	48 to 71
8	St. Giles - - -	413 to 822	43 to 56	29	Fulham - - -	550 to 693	50 to 64
9	St. Martin in-the-Fields	473 to 723	52 to 69	30	Rotherhithe, St. Mary -	{ 670 to 770 400 to 500	{ 50 44 } to 60
10	Strand - - -	340 to 817	35 to 66	31	St. George-in-the-East -	346 to 891	35 to 56
11	Holborn - - -	364 to 616	44 to 13	32	St. Pancras - - -	{ 533 to 780 452 to 615	{ 47 to 56 38 to 53
12	Clerkenwell, St. James -	288 to 584	36 to 100	33	Paddington - - -	495 to 892	50 to 64
13	Shoreditch, St. Leonard	492 to 742	44 to 64	34	Bethnal Green - - -	{ 457 to 648 377 to 889	{ 40 to 45 33 to 83
14	Whitechapel - - -	460 to 700	42 to 60	35	St. Luke, Middlesex -	318 to 596	28 to 58
15	City of London - - -	521 to 621	45 to 61	36	Camberwell, St. Giles -	490 to 666	40 to 60
16	Mile-End Old Town -	438 to 659	41 to 58	37	St. Mary, Newington -	365 to 800	32 to 69
17	Stepney - - -	372 to 649	40 to 56	38	Wandsworth and Clapham.	384 to 576	41 to 56
18	Poplar - - -	447 to 599	42 to 52	39	Hampstead - - -	497 to 636	50 to 63
19	St. Margaret, Westminster.	415 to 643	42 to 57	40	West London - - -	432 to 993	33 to 76
20	St. James, Westminster	{ 555 to 895 314 in basement.	{ 47 to 79				
21	Kensington - - -	431 to 637	43 to 50				

It is of no value, but, on the contrary, would mislead, to point out the *average* cubical and floor space in each workhouse, since the workhouse is not to be regarded as a whole, but as composed of different rooms. each having its own space, and occupied by persons who receive good or evil from that room alone.

It is, however, of the greatest interest to note how many sick wards have a cubical space to each bed of less amount than that required by the Poor Law Board, viz., 500 feet ; and the following Table shows that, with only five or six exceptions, some are found in all workhouses, and in a few they constitute a majority :

TABLE No. 3.

NUMBER of INFIRMARY and SICK WARDS used by Day and Night in the several WORKHOUSES which we found to have less than 500 Cubic Feet Space.

1	Lambeth, St. Mary - - -	10	22	St. Margaret, Kensington -	9 of 10
2	St. Saviour's - - -	None.			in main building.
3	Bermondsey, St. Mary Magdalen	9	23	St. George, Hanover-square -	None.
4	St. Olave's - - -	None.	24	Hackney - - -	13 of 19
5	St. George-the-Martyr - - -	3	25	East London - - -	7 of 21
6	Greenwich - - -	20	26	Islington, St. Mary - - -	9 of 17
7	St. Marylebone - - -	2	27	St. George, at Brompton - -	None.
8	St. Giles - - -	5	28	Chelsea - - -	5 of 14
9	St. Martin-in-the-Fields - -	2	29	Fulham - - -	2 of 18
10	Strand - - -	19 of 24	30	Rotherhithe, St. Mary - -	4 of 10
11	Holborn - - -	5 of 10	31	St. George-in the-East - -	4 of 20
12	Clerkenwell, St. James - -	9 of 12	32	St. Pancras - - -	4 of 20
13	Shoreditch, St. Leonard - -	Scarcely.	33	Paddington - - -	1 of 12
14	Whitechapel - - -	6	34	Bethnal Green - - -	10 of 42
15	City of London - - -	None.	35	St. Luke, Middlesex - -	2 of 8
16	Mile-End Old Town - - -	6 of 13	36	Camberwell, St. Giles - -	1 of 13
17	Stepney - - -	3 of 27	37	St. Mary, Newington - -	5 of 20
18	Poplar - - -	6 of 21	38	Wardsworth and Clapham -	6 of 28
19	St. Margaret, Westminster -	4 of 13	39	Hampstead - - -	1 scarcely.
20	St. James, Westminster - -	Basement only.	40	West London - - -	2 of 32
21	Kensington - - -	5 of 17			

The workhouses which have no exceptions are : St. Saviour's, St. Olave's, St. George's Mount-street, and Brompton ; and Shoreditch, St. James's, and Hampstead might be added to the list.

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*Cubical and Floor  
Space.*

In reference to some others it must be added, that the exceptional wards are often for itch, venereal, and foul cases, which, for the purpose of isolation, have been removed from the main building, and placed in low buildings, or outhouses, not originally intended for habitation.

The workhouses in which over-crowding exists in its most extreme degree are Greenwich, Clerkenwell, Strand, St. Margaret's, and Hackney; but at Lambeth, Bermondsey, Poplar, East London, Islington, Chelsea, Rotherhithe, Bethnal Green, and others, it is very considerable; and in all is indefensible and reprehensible.

In reference to floor space, the same condition prevails, and taking 50 feet as the standard which has been professedly adopted, only nine workhouses have kept within the rule. In nine others the space, in one or more rooms, has been reduced to less than 40; and in at least one to less than 30 superficial feet. These are St. George-the-Martyr, Strand, Clerkenwell, East London, St. George-in-the-East, St. Pancras, Bethnal Green, and St. Luke's.

Hence, in the great majority of the workhouses, the actual floor space in some of the rooms is between 30 and 40 superficial feet; whilst in the same workhouses the actual space in other wards is from 50 to 100 superficial feet.

In one-half of the workhouses the maximum floor space is above 60 superficial feet.

*Plans of Construc-  
tion of the Work-  
houses, with the  
Size and General  
Character of the  
Wards.*

#### PLANS OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORKHOUSES, WITH THE SIZE AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE WARDS.

The plans of construction of the different workhouses vary in the widest possible degree, and the same occurs even in different parts of the same workhouse where additions have been made.

In most of the newer workhouses, as Bethnal Green, East London, Stepney, Mile End, City of London, and St. Pancras, there is a central corridor running through each floor, and the wards are placed on each side of it. With such an arrangement outer windows can be placed only on one side of the wards; but, as at Bethnal Green, windows are placed in the corridor wall and admit a certain amount of light, and, when plugged open, admit air also; or, as at East London and Stepney, the corridor wall, for the most part a blank wall, and neither light nor air is systematically admitted from the corridors, except by the doors.

The corridor is, in some cases, very narrow, as at Greenwich, and in others very long, as at Stepney, and there is a large part of the lower corridor, at least, which is dark; whilst, in some, corridors leading to the outer air do not exist at all, or only at the centre. For the same reasons, and because the outer air is not admitted at the ends with sufficient freedom, the corridors do not supply sufficient air to the wards.

The state of these wards, in reference to lightness, airiness, and cheerfulness, further depends upon the distance between their outer and inner walls; for if, as at Hampstead, the length of the ward, and not its width, is in that direction, they must be dark; but if the width be in that direction and not great, they may be light and cheerful. Whenever there are large outer windows, extending nearly to the ceiling, and windows in the corridor wall, the width of the rooms being moderate, and that of the corridors good, the rooms are light, airy, and cheerful.

With such an arrangement there are always a number of wards at the ends of the building, which have a different construction, and admit of windows on two or three sides.

In a few workhouses there is not a central corridor, but the wards are placed side by side, and the gangway is through the wards. Such is the case in a part of Islington Workhouse; and the windows can only be on one side, except in the case of the end rooms.

In others, as Lambeth and St. Margaret's Kensington, there is only one ward in depth; and for the most part there are windows on both sides, and the passage is through the rooms.

The above refers chiefly to the body of the workhouse, where the aged and infirm are placed, among whom there is a certain proportion of sick, and where the sick wards and lying-in wards are sometimes placed.

In



In detached or separate infirmaries the wards are for the most part single, and have windows on both sides. In some, as at the new buildings at Chelsea, corridors run along the side of the wards, whilst more generally the passage is through the wards, and in some, as at Stepney and East London, the objectionable plan is adopted in some wards of directing the passage along one side of the ward, and thus preventing the proper arrangement of the beds.

In nearly all such buildings there must be some wards where windows can be placed on one side only; and where side corridors exist, windows are not always placed in the wall separating it from the ward. There will also usually be end wards where windows will be found on two or three sides, or where in such positions two wards will be built back to back, as at East London, with a blank and often unbroken partition wall.

It is perhaps as unusual to find double wards separated by a corridor in the infirmary buildings as it is usual in the main building of the workhouses, but, as at West London, it does sometimes occur.

It is impossible to consider in this general manner the arrangements of the minor buildings in many of the workhouses, which in the special reports on each workhouse, I have recommended to be taken down, since they are of every size, form, and mode of arrangement; but very generally they are outer buildings which were designed for workrooms, as at St. Mary Newington, or for school-rooms, as at Kensington.

Perhaps in illustration of the diversity of arrangement in the several buildings, I might advantageously cite St. George-in-the-East, with its old dark and cheerless buildings, its excellent new buildings, its disreputable venereal wards in a lean-to, its imperfect imbecile and nursery wards, and its "stone buildings," with large and good rooms, built side by side; or St. Pancras, with a whole village of detached buildings; or St. Mary Newington, or Fulham, with its main building, imbecile wards, general infirmary, and fever wards, all in distinct buildings, and of different modes of construction: and it may not be denied that additions, whether to the main building, or in the erection of infirmary, fever wards, casual wards, imbecile wards, and offices, have been made without unity of design, and the erections have been placed upon the land without order, and without regard to the appearance or the openness of the site.

Yet, as a general expression, it must be stated that in a large majority of the workhouses, the infirmary and other sick wards have windows on two sides (one or both being from the outside), and that in general the wards are light, airy, and cheerful. There is, however, almost universally need for improvement, and in numerous instances I have pointed out in the special reports the necessity for placing windows in the corridors, as at Bethnal-green, Fulham, Stepney, East London, and West London; of increasing the number of the outside windows, as at Bethnal-green; and of increasing the admission of light and air to the corridors. In reference to the former there is not any real difficulty in effecting the improvement; but, as to the latter, whilst some are so wide as to be used, or are capable of being used, as exercising grounds, as at Shoreditch, others are too narrow to be materially improved.

Moreover, some of the workhouses are, from their general construction, incapable of material improvement, as at Islington, which the Directors have decided to pull down.

The size and general appearance of the wards must necessarily vary much in workhouses of different ages and plans of construction. There are, however, but very few in which they are so large as to be wasteful in point of space, and where it becomes necessary to place one or more rows of beds in the middle of the room. Such wards are met with at Lambeth, St. Pancras, Bermondsey, &c. There is only one ward, and that is at Bermondsey, which is of inconvenient length. Neither are the wards usually too small to admit of good ventilation, and the proper use of space; but a few of such are found in many workhouses. St. Margaret's Westminster, is, as a whole, a marked instance of this defect; and several new infirmaries, as Mile End and West London, belong to the same class.

Generally speaking, the wards in the body of workhouses are of moderate size, and are capable of both economical and efficient use of space, whilst in too many of the infirmaries the rooms are small.



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*Plans of Construction of the Workhouses, with the Size and General Character of the Wards.*

In reference to width and height, the tables attached to the reports show —

1. That whilst the wards of many of the old workhouses are of moderate width, they are low. This is the case at the Strand, Lambeth, Holborn, and other workhouses, in some of which a few of the wards do not exceed eight feet in height. In such the least lofty wards are at the top of the building.

2. In many, perhaps a large majority, of the new ones, the wards are of suitable height, but deficient in width.

The height in all, except those in the upper storey, is usually 10 to 11 feet; and in the upper storey, where the wards are built in the roof, it is 12 to 14 feet. In some workhouses there are wards the height of which is as low as nine, and as high as 12 feet.

The width is in some from 18 to 22 feet, but more commonly it is 17 to 18 feet. Some are yet narrower, as at Fulham, Hackney, Kensington, and St. Margaret's, where it varies from 16 to 17 feet.

A very few have both the general height and width much contracted, as in the case of Hackney, where the usual dimensions are 9 to 10 feet  $\times$  16 to 17 feet.

There are, moreover, some wards in most of the workhouses where the dimensions in one or both directions are even less than these; and which are the blots upon perhaps an otherwise fair picture.

3. A great and common defect is the great height of the window sill from the floor, by which the inmates, when lying in bed, and very generally also when sitting or standing, are unable to see the ground outside. It equally exists in an old workhouse, like St. George-the-Martyr, and a new one, like the West London; and even in the newly built infirmaries, as those of St. Saviour's and St. Giles.

This evil, however, varies in degree both in different workhouses, and in different parts of the same workhouse, and in some, as at Camberwell, is not a very considerable one for such of the inmates as can sit or stand up. It has arisen from a desire to prevent improper communication between the classes of inmates, and to diminish the nuisance of the workhouse to the surrounding inhabitants.

4. The walls in nearly all the newer workhouses are undrawn, and therefore look rough. In many workhouses they are simply white-washed; but in others, and probably in a majority, pains have been taken to colour or tint them. In some, as at St. George-the-Martyr, a space of about four feet from the floor has been painted, and the upper part has been coloured with a wash of a bluish, greenish, or pinkish tint, or of even more pronounced colours; and in some, as at Poplar, the Master changes the tint every six months.

The effect of this tinting is very agreeable to the inmates, but in some cases, as at St. George-the-Martyr, the depth of colour is too pronounced.

As a general statement of the impression made upon my own mind, and notwithstanding the defects which I have pointed out, the infirmary and sick wards are, during the daytime, light, airy, and moderately cheerful.

#### BEDS, BEDDING, FURNITURE AND EFFECTS.

*Beds, Bedding,  
Furniture and  
Effects.*

THE beds consist almost universally of flock, but in some workhouses, as at Camberwell and Hampstead, there are beds of coir, or cocoa fibre; in others, as at Paddington and Stepney, hair mattresses; in others, and chiefly for dirty cases, as at Greenwich, straw beds; and in some, as at Camberwell, a part of the aged and infirm sick have feathers. In some, as at Chelsea, there are a few hair pillows. Hair mattresses are now supplanting flock beds at Chelsea, and wool mattresses are being introduced at St. Giles.

The flock is very generally of good quality, and is therefore moderately soft, but however good the quality, it requires to be put through the process of teasing by a machine several times in the year, in order to keep it as soft as it can be made. In several of the workhouses, this machine has been procured; in others, the flock is picked with some regularity without a machine; but in a majority there is no machine, and the picking is effected very irregularly, or only after the death of the occupant of the bed.

In several of the workhouses we found some of the beds too thin.



The cocoa fibre, in like manner, requires to be pulled to pieces from time to time, so as to lighten and give elasticity to the mass. This is not always effected, and in several cases the coir bed was much less soft than the flock bed.

Straw beds when used for dirty cases require to be changed frequently, and this is generally effected; but with frequent changes by careless persons, the beds will sometimes, as at Greenwich, contain too little straw.

Hair mattresses of the thickness provided in workhouses, and without palliasses, always become thin in the middle, and in due time afford but little protection to the body of the inmate. At Paddington, as well as at Stepney, we found many of them in that state, and not creditable to the watchfulness of the officials.

As they are fastened in various parts they cannot be so readily emptied and re-made as flock beds; and, indeed, they require more skill than can usually be found in a workhouse.

The feather beds are few; and, when they consist of common feathers, become inelastic with age, and are very apt to become lumpy. They require more care in making the bed than is necessary with flock beds.

Hence, whilst almost universally the beds are comfortable, more systematic care is required to keep them in good order.

With the exception of St. George-the-Martyr, there is not any workhouse where the bedsteads are of wood; but iron bedsteads may be said to be universal. Some of them are old in construction and not agreeable in appearance, as in many of the old workhouses, and in a few new ones where they had been removed from an older workhouse; whilst in the great majority of cases they are of modern make. There is, however, much diversity in the different workhouses even in the character of the iron bedsteads.

In a majority of cases the bottom is of iron laths, but in some, as at Bermondsey, Camberwell, Shoreditch, Stepney, and Bethnal Green, there are some of the Crimean bedsteads, or bedsteads having similarly broad and rigid bands of iron for the bottom; and at Kensington there are some with rigid wooden laths. In most workhouses, moreover, there are some bedsteads with sacking, and such are, for the most part, allotted to the aged and the sick.

In a few instances, we found some of the laths detached and the bottom of the bedstead very hollow in the middle; and in others, the sacking was torn and the ropes were loose; but in the great majority of cases the bedsteads were in fair, and in many, in excellent order.

Single bedsteads are almost universal for the use of the sick, but in some workhouses, as at Lambeth, St. Olave's, St. George-the Martyr, Clerkenwell, St. Margaret's Kensington, and St. Pancras, there are a few double ones. Moreover, in several other workhouses double beds are provided for women with children, and for children alone.

The usual size of the bedstead is 6 feet to 6 feet 3 inches in length, by 2 feet 5 inches to 2 feet 8 inches in breadth; there are some 3 feet, and others, as some at East London, only 2 feet 3 inches in width; and, what is more remarkable and reprehensible, there are two or three workhouses, as St. Mary Newington, where a few beds of only 4 feet 8 inches, and 5 feet in length, are furnished for adults.

In nearly all cases, a bed of the wider width is supplied to women with children, but in some instances, as at Whitechapel, a few narrow beds were used, and must have been most uncomfortable.

The bedding consists of a rug, two or more blankets, and a sheet above the inmate, with an under-sheet, and usually an under-blanket.

The rugs vary greatly in appearance, and, to an observer, give a character to the room.

In many of the older workhouses they are of cotton, either white, yellow, or blue, and have the name of the union woven into them. When they are white and clean they look well, but when coloured or old, as are many at St. Giles, St. James', and elsewhere, they are faded, worn, or ragged, and look untidy and cheerless. In some, as at the Strand, a white cover, with a coloured stripe, is thrown over the bed during the daytime, and gives a very clean and cheerful appearance. This is supplied to the women. In others, and now in a majority, woollen rugs of varying quality and degrees of cheerfulness are being introduced, and the officials are learning that these, although more costly than the cotton ones, are more durable, and retain their good looks for a much longer period.



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The officers are also in this, as in reference to the walls, learning the agreeable effect of bright colours upon the inmates. In this matter, however, there is still much room for improvement.

The blankets are sometimes thick and good, whilst very generally, perhaps, they are not so thick and new as might be desired. I do not know that any lack of warmth occurs, since our inspection was not made in the winter season, when probably an additional blanket is supplied. On the contrary, in reply to our enquiries, the inmates assured us that they were sufficiently warm; but judging from the character of many of the blankets, and the fact that in some workhouses, as at East London, two blankets were supplied in the depth of winter, I think that watchfulness is required.

The sheets were in the great majority of cases good. In some the linen was brown, and had a somewhat dirty and repelling appearance; and in others, and particularly in the foul wards, the sheets were old and discoloured. In many, a kind of linen had been selected with a narrow stripe of colour in it; but usually the ordinary white sheeting was provided, and the whole was agreeable in appearance.

Mattresses, in addition to the beds, were of very rare occurrence. At Poplar, in addition to many other improvements effected by the intelligence of the master, was a cocoa-fibre mattress under each bed. In a few, as St. James and Rotherhithe, a straw mattress had been placed upon some of the women's beds; and in one or two a strip of cocoa-fibre matting supplied the place of a mattress; but those exceptions were only sufficiently numerous to establish the rule above mentioned. This was of little moment in the case of beds with sacking, since probably no easier bed could fall to the lot of the poor than one of good flock properly teased and filled, and placed upon sacking with a suitable tension; but it was of the greatest moment to the comfort of the inmates lying upon bedsteads with rigid wooden or iron bottoms, and in the case of well made iron-lath bottoms, when the beds were not well filled, or the hair mattress was worn thin in the middle. Moreover, in numerous cases we found the ticks iron-moulded, and injured from direct contact with the iron.

For a reason to be mentioned presently, the use of laths is supplanting that of sacking.

This deficiency of mattresses, and the use of cheap bedsteads with rigid bottoms, and the possible occurrence of thin beds, is a serious defect in the bedding of some of the workhouses. It should also be added that whilst the condition of the ticks is, in a majority of instances, good, in some they are very poor in quality, patched, and old.

Bolsters are always provided, and usually pillows also.

It is difficult to do justice while comparing the bedding in one workhouse with that in another, except in a few extreme cases, since nearly in all the workhouses there is diversity in its character; but, generally speaking, that of St. George Hanover-square, at their two workhouses, Marylebone, Shoreditch, and St. Margaret's was almost or quite universally good; whilst at Fulham, East London, St. Giles, Paddington, Bethnal-green, St. Pancras, Mile-end, St. Margaret's at Kensington, Whitechapel, and St. Luke's, the condition was more or less defective. Perhaps, for easy comparison, and in two new workhouses, none could be more effectively taken, both in this and other things, than the neighbouring workhouses of St. George's at Brompton and Fulham.

In most of the workhouses there are some bedsteads with racks, by which the upper part of the body may be raised. At Poplar most of the sick beds have this convenience; and at St. George's Hanover-square, St. Mary Newington, and many others, there is a noticeable proportion; but in many, as at Hackney, there are none. A few separate bed-rests, and some fitted up luxuriously with hair stuffing, as at Wandsworth, are provided in nearly all workhouses. Generally speaking, however, there is a deficiency in both of these requirements.

It may be further added, that in some of the workhouses, as Holborn, and Bethnal-green, and in general, where the master has previously held some office in the army, the bedding is neatly folded up and placed at the head of the bedstead throughout the day. In this, as also in other cases, and particularly where the rooms are narrow, the bedsteads are often made to fold up, so that the lower part is turned upon the upper, and covers the bedding, whilst more space is left in the centre of the wards.

This



This arrangement, however, is not general; and more commonly the beds, which the occupants vacate in the daytime, are made at eight or nine a.m., and left prepared for use at night. When the inmates occupy the bed during the day, it is made, more or less conveniently, once or twice daily.

Under the head of Furniture and Effects, we have noticed the following:

Cupboards, dressers, lockers, bookshelves, nightstools, benches with backs, chairs, arm-chairs, rocking-chairs for lying-in rooms, cushions, screens, capes or shawls for use in bed when sitting up, flannel nightgowns for use in the night, slippers, bed-trays, napkins to cover the trays or beds at meals, looking-glasses, pulleys, spectacles, towels, combs, brushes, soap, washhand basins, urinals, waste paper, books of a religious, entertaining, and illustrated character, illustrated periodicals, games and other amusements; and such medical appliances as feet and chest warmers, air or water beds and cushions, waterproof sheeting and urinals, bed-rests, and moveable slipper, hip, and foot baths.

It will not be possible, with any satisfactory results, to enter into a minute analysis of the information which we have gained on these matters, but must be content to offer a few observations, and those rather of general character than of detail, and refer to the reports on the separate workhouses.

With 40 workhouses, each managed by officers of varying discernment, taste, knowledge, and attention to the details of duty; and with Boards of Guardians varying in their acquaintance with other workhouses, and even with their own—differing also in their personal tastes, and in their views as to the proper provision to be made for the treatment of the poor, great diversity in the degree in which these articles are supplied might be expected. In some, as for example, St. George's workhouses, Marylebone, City of London, Camberwell, and Islington, the most casual observer would notice that, whatever defects may yet exist, great attention has been paid, not only to the well-being but to the comfort of the inmates; whilst in others, as Fulham, notably, St. Mary Newington, Hackney, East London, Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, Paddington, Mile End, Stepney, West London, St. Giles, and Clerkenwell, there is in many particulars a marked deficiency.

Buckets, tins, and the larger utensils, with brushes and similar articles, are sometimes, as at Whitechapel, placed in cupboards under the sinks in the corridors; or, as at St. Pancras and many other workhouses, in the small ill-ventilated sinks, or even in the water-closets, both of which may lead directly out of the wards. In others, as at Clerkenwell, they remain exposed in the wards; and in others they are placed in cupboards in the wards.

It is impossible to keep such articles sweet, and they are, moreover, unsightly, and should not be exposed, nor kept in ill-ventilated places in direct communication with the wards, and least of all should they encumber the water-closets.

In this respect there is a deficiency in most of the workhouses.

In a large majority of workhouses there are cupboards in the wards, in which the lesser utensils are properly placed; but in a few, as St. Giles, they are misappropriated by being occupied by the paupers' clothing, which might readily be kept elsewhere, whilst the articles which should be placed therein, are left scattered about and exposed.

Dressers are found at Bermondsey, St. George-the-Martyr, Greenwich, Marylebone, St. Martin's, Holborn, City of London, St. George Hanover-square (two workhouses); Chelsea, St. George-in-the-East, and Camberwell, and a few in Whitechapel, Hackney, &c. They contain, in the cupboards, the smaller but rougher utensils, and some of the crockery, whilst the polished tin warmers, the crockery, and ornaments, are displayed upon the outside. In some workhouses, as St. George-the-Martyr, St. George's at Brompton, Holborn, Marylebone, and Islington, they are most useful, and by the display give an air of comfort to the wards. In several workhouses they are replaced by small cupboards; but at St. Margaret's, Kensington, East London, St. Pancras, Paddington, Bethnal Green, St. Mary Newington, Wandsworth, and West London, there are none, or scarcely any, in the wards.

In many workhouses there is also a display of these articles upon the mantel-shelves, but in one or two, and those the newer workhouses, as at Fulham, there are not any mantel-shelves, and the walls look very bare.

Lockers, in which the inmates may place a few things belonging to themselves, as slippers and books, are not by any means generally found, and they



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are most useful and necessary. None exist at Mile End, Stepney, Poplar, St. Margaret's Kensington, Hackney, East London, Paddington, or Wandsworth. In some workhouses there are a few (usually very old and small ones), as at West London, Chelsea, Kensington, St. Margaret's Westminster, and White-chapel. In some they are absurdly small, as at St. Mary Newington.

The lockers usually have a door in front, and sometimes they add materially to the furniture of the wards. In others they are like night-stools in form and size,—small and very common,—and are opened at the top. In some, as at Hampstead, the night-stool, the locker, and the washstand are compounded together, and a hybrid piece of furniture is produced. At St. Pancras they are lofty, have three or four shelves, and are without doors.

In this matter there is a very general deficiency.

Bookshelves are found generally in only a very few workhouses, including those of the City of London and St. George-in-the-East; but an occasional set may be seen at St. Margaret's Westminster, and St. James's. Hence the books and periodicals, when they exist, are scattered about the wards, or laid up in corners.

Night-stools are found in every ward, and as they are used as ordinary seats also, they sometimes, as at Mile End, abound to an extraordinary degree. They are commonly very small and plain, and being used as benches, are very generally without arms, and are most inconvenient for the use of aged and infirm persons in the night. In a few workhouses they are chairs, and then very commonly they are old and ill-looking.

There is always a moveable pan; and where there is a night nurse, it is the practice to empty it after use; but in some places, as in the old buildings at St. George-in-the-East, it remains in the ward until the morning. In one workhouse only, Holborn, is there a night convenience of improved construction; one that is sealed after use. (*See page 51, fig. 5*).

In several workhouses the only benches provided are without backs; and there are both small ones between the beds, and long ones in the middle of the room. More commonly, however, the long benches have backs, and are thus more comfortable; but the backs are often very upright, and the seats narrow. In not a few, there are cushions upon the benches; and in some the benches are padded and quite luxurious.

There is, however, in general, a defect in comfort in this matter; and it is painful to see the aged and infirm, and particularly the sick, sitting upon narrow benches without backs or cushions.

Chairs are universally found; and sometimes both single and arm-chairs are supplied in abundance; but in many, perhaps in most workhouses, there is a deficiency, and particularly of arm-chairs. They are usually Windsor chairs; but some are even straighter in the back, and look, if possible, harder in the seat. Some workhouses, however, supply very comfortable chairs.

Rocking chairs for the use of the lying-in room and nursery are scarcely ever provided; and in this, as in many other comforts, the lying-in wards of the metropolitan workhouses are deficient. In some of the workhouses in my own district every little child has been provided with a little rocking-chair; but no such comfort exists in London.

Cushions for benches, or chairs, or both, are found in many workhouses, as at St. Saviour's, Bermondsey, Marylebone, St. George Hanover-square (two workhouses); Islington, St. George-in-the-East, &c.; but not at all, or most rarely, at St. George-the-Martyr, Shoreditch, Mile End, St. Margaret Westminster, St. Pancras, East London, St. James, Paddington, &c.

In this matter, and particularly in the lying-in wards, there is a deficiency.

Screens are found in nearly all workhouses. They are of every size and colour; but those which seemed the most simple and neat were only sheets thrown over a stand like a clothes-horse. There is an objection to place them around the bed of dying persons, since the practice is said to have a depressing effect upon the sufferer, and to intimate very plainly the belief of the officials in his approaching end. But it was very painful to see a dying man, as at Bermondsey and Stepney, exposed to the gaze and notice of all the inmates and incomers; and we could not but wish, both for the sense of privacy which seems natural at such a time, and to prevent the ill effect of the sight of frequent deaths upon the other inmates of the ward, that screens sufficiently high to prevent those who lie in bed from seeing the dying person were universally provided.

Woollen



Woollen capes, or shawls, for the use of the inmates when sitting up in bed, are now very generally provided; and in perhaps a majority of the workhouses there are woollen gowns for such as use the night-stool during the night. Further extension of these comforts is, however, required. Slippers are provided in a large majority of the workhouses, and sometimes they are neat and good.

Bed-trays are supplied in most workhouses, and in some, as at Whitechapel, pains have been taken to fix them well upon the bed. More are needed.

Napkins to cover the trays, or, in the absence of trays, to lie upon the bed-cloths during the meal, are supplied in some workhouses, as at St. Luke's and St. George's, but the practice is not general.

Looking-glasses are found in probably a majority of the workhouses, and at Shoreditch one is also placed in each lavatory. This practice is extending, and, as at Wandsworth, will soon include both men's and women's wards.

Pulleys to the bed are not generally supplied, but they are found in several workhouses, and should be found in all.

Spectacles are supplied by the Guardians in nearly all workhouses; and although we did not find any case in which, spectacles had been refused, I think it open to question whether due pains are taken to see that every aged person has them. Many, perhaps most, of the aged have some dilapidated ones of their own, but the degree of power is not always fitted to their present sight. Improvement is needed in this matter.

The supply of towels varies in almost every workhouse. In a very few, as Marylebone, St. Giles, St. Margaret Westminster, Islington, Hampstead, and St. George's at Brompton, each sick inmate has a separate towel. In most workhouses a certain number of towels are supplied to each ward by the guardians, and many of the inmates have their own. They are square or roller towels, and their number, of whatever kind and size, allowed to each ward varies from 1, as at Paddington, to 24 for 31 inmates, as at St. Pancras. Usually, however, the supply for an ordinary ward is two or three round ones, and they are changed twice a week. In several workhouses they are changed whenever desired, and therefore, practically, the number is greatly multiplied, and as at St. Saviour's, East London, St. Pancras, St. Mary Newington, and many others, the supply is abundant.

In a few the towels were greatly deficient in size, quantity, and quality, as in some wards, at St. George-in-the-East; and in many it was impossible to believe that two roller towels, changed twice a week, could be sufficient.

In this, however, it is very difficult to arrive at a just conclusion, since, as has already been stated, many of the inmates have their own towels; and in washing the inmates in bed, a sponge is very generally used. We rarely saw towels in a very dirty state, and still more rarely saw dirty faces amongst the inmates. Moreover, the matron in one workhouse stated that the towels when returned were scarcely dirtied; but in not a few cases we pointed out to the master and matron that a deficiency existed, and obtained their assent to our view of the matter.

In this, as in other matters, a rapid improvement is being effected; and whilst in one part of the workhouse, as at St. George-in-the-East, we found the miserable towels to which I have referred, in other wards good roller towels had been provided.

In one workhouse, the separate towel was fastened with a loop to a hook in the wall, near to the bed of each patient; and in another a towel-horse had been fixed upon the locker; but usually they were folded and placed over the rail at the top of the bedstead, or behind the pillow. Rollers for the jack-towels were usually provided; but in some workhouses, as at St. Mary Newington, they did not exist, and the towels were laid about untidily.

Combs in like manner often belonged to the inmates, and particularly to the women; but in by far the large majority of workhouses only one or two were supplied by the guardians to each ward. We did not examine those of the inmates, but those of the guardians were usually broken, and sometimes dirty. A small-tooth comb and a large comb were usually found together.

At Marylebone and Islington, one was supplied to each inmate; and at Hampstead, and probably a few other workhouses, each female inmate had a comb, either of her own or of the guardians.

The instances were extremely few where hair-brushes were provided for



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adults; but at Marylebone and Islington one was supplied to each female. At the City of London, St. James's and St. Margaret Westminster, two were supplied to a ward; at Camberwell, three to each ward; and at Hampstead and Chelsea, one to each ward.

Hair-brushes were used to the children.

In reference to towels, combs, and brushes, there is a deficiency.

Soap is universally supplied by the guardians. In a majority of workhouses a certain quantity is allowed to the ward, part of which is used to clean the ward and part in washing the inmates; and in some workhouses a separate piece of about two ounces is given to each person. In only one or two workhouses was a complaint made of insufficiency of soap; and we were very generally informed that if, from any special reason, an additional quantity of soap was required, it was supplied on asking for it.

As this is an article which might readily be wasted, it is probable that the supply is generally limited and watched; and in reference to the question of the distribution of soap to each inmate, and the use of a separate towel, it must not be forgotten that no inconsiderable proportion of the inmates of the wards which we saw were accustomed to get up and wash at the lavatory with a piece of soap common to all, and to wipe themselves upon a common towel.

The practical test of these questions is the cleanliness of the inmates, and this doubtless far exceeded that of the same class at their own homes, and was not less than that of the inmates of other public institutions.

Washhand basins were universally provided, but in numerous workhouses the number was small in proportion to that of the inmates. Usually there were two or three to a ward; but sometimes only one, and that a broken one, could be found; and in others, six or seven were supplied to each ward. Those inmates who did not keep their beds did not use these basins, but washed in the lavatory; and as the persons who washed the inmates rarely exceeded two, scarcely more than that number of basins could be used by them. In some workhouses, as at Fulham, we found wards with only one basin for the use of all the inmates, whether able to rise or not; and as it is probable that some of the inmates who kept their beds were able to sit up to wash themselves, we could not doubt that in this, as in cases where even two or three basins were allowed, the supply was insufficient.

The basins were very generally of white pottery; but in some they were of dirty looking tin, and, in others, of metal, with or without a lining of enamel. In some, as at Wandsworth, they were small in size.

At Kensington and Paddington, two West-end workhouses, we found the disgraceful fact, of some of the inmates washing in the chamber pots. This occurred only in one ward in each workhouse, and was owing, not to the general absence of washhand basins, but to the fact that the washhand basins in charge of those particular pauper nurses had been broken. In each case the master was present with us, and appeared to be quite unaware of the occurrence of this filthy habit, and blamed the pauper nurse for not having asked for additional basins; but it appeared to us, and so we expressed ourselves, that the fault and the discredit rested upon him and the matron, and at Paddington, upon the newly-appointed paid nurse, for not making themselves acquainted with the ordinary proceedings in their workhouse.

We were told that the same practice had formerly existed in some of the wards at St. George-the-Martyr; but under the present vigilant and intelligent master, this, with a multitude of other evils, had passed away.

We were also informed, by the medical officer at the East London Union, that the inmates would adopt the same practice there if not sharply looked after; that it was not an uncommon habit in the homes of the poor; and that even in a militia regiment, with which he had been officially connected, this dirty practice had occurred.

It may be presumed, and we learnt that at Paddington it was so, that the pots were in each case washed before being used for this purpose.

Urinals were universally supplied to each bed, and many of them, as would be probable, had the handle broken off.

Waste paper for use at the water-closet was supplied in but very few workhouses. This appears to be really both a hardship to the inmates and a disgrace to the guardians; and has led in numberless instances to the use of old towels, dusters, and dishcloths, which were thrown down the water-closet, and

in



in not a few instances stopped them up. It was, however, stated—and it certainly applies too much to country populations—that a very large proportion of the poor do not use waste paper at their homes, and do not therefore notice the necessity for it; and it must also be added that the subject from its nature had very generally been overlooked by the Guardians. We nevertheless found several masters who had noticed the necessity for a supply; and as periodicals do not find their way largely into workhouses, neither the master nor the inmates could furnish waste paper without some special arrangement being made for its purchase by the Guardians. In this matter there is a too general defect.

One or more Bibles, and sometimes a Prayer Book were found in each ward, but in a more or less imperfect and dilapidated state,—a circumstance connected with the subject just discussed. In only one workhouse have we found a separate copy of any part of the Sacred Scriptures supplied to each sick inmate. The master at Camberwell, thus honourably distinguished, had provided a bent-wire rack, holding a Testament with good type and in good condition, which hung at the bed head of each inmate; and it cannot be doubted that when thus close at hand the Scriptures would be read, when under other circumstances the inmates would not have that advantage.

A library was found in a majority of the workhouses; but it certainly varied greatly both in extent and variety. Generally it was very small, and the books old, and perhaps not interesting; whilst in some, interesting biographies and the excellent serials of the day had been bound, and were accessible to the inmates. In more than one workhouse, however, libraries of some value had been supplied; and at St. Margaret's, Kensington, the chaplain and medical officer enjoyed the high reward of having amassed a library of about 800 volumes.

In a majority of the wards, probably, we found some books, few, old, and generally uninteresting; and whilst in most some efforts were made to distribute the library books through the several wards, there was generally an utter want of regularity and success.

Periodicals of an interesting nature, and often with illustrations, as, for example, the "Sunday at Home," "Leisure Hour," "Cassell's Paper," and the "British Workman," are found nearly in all workhouses, but their number is very few, the circulation is most irregular and unsystematic, and in many wards it entirely fails. In some workhouses the Guardians expend 2 s. to 5 s. weekly in the purchase of periodicals; but in many others, as at St. Pancras, they do not do so; and the supply, if any, is provided by the chaplain or other official, the scripture reader, the tract distributor, the lady visitor, or a kindly disposed and thoughtful guardian, as at Wandsworth. But few newspapers find their way into workhouses, yet sometimes an inmate purchases them, or the doctor leaves his copy of the "Illustrated London News"; and we were informed that an impression exists, however erroneous it may be, that the Poor Law Board do not approve of their introduction.

On the whole, there is a defect in the supply of Bibles and other religious books; and a more general defect in the supply of useful and entertaining books to readers, and illustrations for those who cannot read. There is also a great defect in the system of distributing through the different wards such as are provided; and, perhaps, even a greater still, in the absence of persons who will read to those who cannot read for themselves. A few honourable exceptions exist.

Games and similar amusements are but rarely supplied either to the children or the aged. In reference to the former, no one doubted the acceptableness of toys and simple games; but as to the latter, we were informed that the aged cared little for them, and that they were liked only by the young and the idle. Whatever amount of truth there may be in that statement, it was certainly sad to see so many hundreds of persons, with nothing to amuse them, who from defective education, and long residence out of the world, had nothing to think about, and who sat or lay looking at the bare walls, or their scarcely more animated fellow inmates. In many workhouses a certain number of draught boards and men, either supplied by the Guardians, or made by the inmates, and a larger number of dominoes existed, but they were not distributed to the wards generally, and were insufficient in number. In this, as in some other matters, the officials had not kept pace with the times;



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and had left the inmates to ask for that which, as we found at Camberwell, existed in stock, and might have been distributed long before.

Games at cards are not allowed in any workhouse.

The lunatics, when warded separately, are in this matter, as in almost everything else, more highly favoured than any other class of inmates. There is very generally a good bagatelle board for their use, with battledoor and shuttlecock, and other games, both within and without the wards; and, as at Shoreditch, it is not uncommon for the nurse to amuse them with the accordion; or, as at the City of London, for some of the inmates to play upon the piano, to the amusement of all.

In reference to children, there is a universal deficiency of toys and amusements, and in reference to the aged and sick adults, the amusements should be more varied and numerous.

Prints and Scripture phrases (some of the latter not a little incongruous), were found in nearly all the workhouses, differing greatly in value, fitness, and number. They were the most noticeable at St. Margaret's at Kensington, Holborn, St. George-the-Martyr, Marylebone, Strand, Islington, St. George's at Brompton, Chelsea, St. George-in-the-East, Paddington, and Camberwell, and were indicative of a thoughtful chaplain or master, or the bounty of some lady visitor, as in the case of Mrs. Gladstone, in St. George-in-the East. At St. Margaret's at Kensington, the chaplain and medical officer had collected about 500 prints. On the other hand, there were several workhouses in which none, or scarcely any prints could be found; as West London, Wandsworth, Fulham, St. Mary Newington, St. Luke's City-road, St. Pancras, Rotherhithe, East London, Hackney, St. George Hanover-square, Kensington, St. James, St. Margaret Westminster, Whitechapel, St. Giles, and St. Saviour's. Hence there was a very general deficiency in this matter.

Of medical appliances there was, speaking generally, a good supply; and, without exception, the medical officers informed us that whatever they required or ordered was readily supplied.

Feet and chest warmers, one or both, were found in all workhouses; and in some, as Marylebone, and St. George's Hanover-square, they were, with other metal utensils, displayed in every ward. In some workhouses proper bottles were used as foot warmers; and in a few, as at Wandsworth, their size was small. In a few there were no chest warmers; and in several workhouses I have pointed out some deficiency.

Moveable baths, whether slipper, hip, or foot-baths, were almost universally supplied. Some of the former were on wheels, as at Marylebone, and were large and convenient. In some, as at St. Pancras, hip-baths were numerous, and more or less supplanted slipper baths; and foot-baths were universal.

The number of these appliances, however, varied much; and in some places, as Fulham, were clearly deficient.

Air or water beds, and air or water cushions, were supplied in very nearly all the workhouses; but at Whitechapel, East London, and one or two others, there was a deficiency, and there were not any cushions with a central depression.

Waterproof sheeting was found everywhere; and in general it is now used both for the labour bed and for the lying-in beds; but in quality it was often thin and poor, and not really economical. We found very few of the waterproof sheets with a central depression and a funnel to pass through the bed, so suited to wet and dirty cases. No waterproof urinals, to be worn by the aged suffering from incontinency of urine, were seen by us; and I pointed out the defect at Mile End and some other places.

There was also a deficiency in the supply of properly formed urinals for men and women, to be used in bed, and at St. Mary Newington, there was a complaint of want of tin vessels for vomits.

Curtains to the windows, in addition to blinds, were found in several workhouses, as at St. Pancras, Islington, and Camberwell. In some, short curtains were economically represented by whitened window panes; and in a few, as at East London, colour was put upon the panes to effect the same purpose as blinds.

In some, as at Camberwell, a white dimity curtain was placed between each two beds, which could be drawn or extended at pleasure; and in a few there were



were curtains at the head of the women's beds, and particularly, as at St. George-the-Martyr, on the lying-in-beds.

When the labour bed was in the same room as the lying-in beds, there was a curtain placed around it.

Usually, however, window and bed curtains were not supplied; neither were there generally valances to the beds.

Artificial and natural flowers, and various ornaments were found in several workhouses, as at St. George's at Brompton, Islington, Marylebone, Camberwell, and Holborn, and did not a little to give a charm to the wards and yards.

It was not possible for us to inquire minutely into the character of the clothing supplied to the sick, since so many of that class do not make use of day clothes. Generally speaking, however, it was the same as that supplied to the other inmates, and the use of flannel shirts and pocket handkerchiefs was not general. I doubt very much whether it would be in general sufficiently warm for the winter season, if the inmates were not, by the nature of their ailment, commonly confined to the wards or to the workhouse at that period.

After this reference to details, we must arrive at the conclusion that there is great diversity in the different workhouses in all the matters discussed under this head; but that having regard to the subject numerically, there can be no doubt that a deficiency widely exists.

Among those workhouses which occupied the first rank in the supply of furniture and comforts are Marylebone, Islington, St. George's at Brompton, and the City of London; whilst Camberwell, St. George-in-the-East (except in the old parts), St. George's Hanover-square, Poplar, St. George-the-Martyr, and St. Giles occupied the next rank. Amongst those in which the most marked defects existed, speaking generally, were West London, Bethnal Green, Paddington, Fulham, East London, and Hackney.

In a few workhouses, as at St. Giles and Wandsworth, wooden plates or bowls were still in use for the sick; and in others, as St. Olave, tin plates were used for the same purpose. In many, probably in a majority, tin pannikins are used for soup. In the large majority of workhouses, however, pottery plates, basins, and mugs have been introduced.

#### CLEANLINESS.

#### *Cleanliness.*

The condition in which we found the linen, furniture, and wards, was that of marked cleanliness.

In a very few workhouses, as St. George the Martyr, Shoreditch and White-chapel, and particularly the latter, we found some stains on the labour bed; but in nearly every other case stains had been prevented by the use of waterproof sheeting. The linen used in the basement wards, as at St. James, and in some foul wards in other workhouses, was of bad colour, and the bedding upon which itch patients were treated by sulphur ointment, could not be clean. The cotton rugs in use in some workhouses, as St. Giles, had the appearance of want of cleanliness; but they were old and of a dirty colour.

The rule is to supply at least one sheet weekly to all the beds in the sick wards, and one sheet fortnightly to the other wards. In numerous workhouses two sheets weekly were regularly supplied to each bed in the sick wards; and in certain cases one or both sheets were changed daily. It was usual to have three sheets for each bed at Holborn, and four at St. Mary's at Newington; and a greater number were allotted to the dirty cases.

Each inmate had clean under linen and stockings weekly; and the dirty and lying-in cases had a change of linen much more frequently.

Indeed nothing appeared to me to be more remarkable than the exceeding cleanliness of the workhouses, having regard to the dirty habits of many of the inmates, and the great number of persons of the lowest class of society who were there congregated together; and in this respect many of the old workhouses, as Holborn and Poplar, vied with the newest and best arranged workhouses, and were in a state highly creditable to the officials.

The filthy practice of the use of chamber-pots, in two wards already referred

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to, must be regarded as a matter quite apart, and as in no way indicative of want of cleanliness in the workhouses.

The presence of bugs is also much to be regretted; but considering their abundance in London houses of almost every class, and particularly of the class whence the inmates of workhouses are derived, greater importance must not be attached to it than it deserves. They were said to be numerous at St. George-the-Martyr, with the old wooden and sacking bedsteads; and there it cannot be pleaded that the authorities were blameless, for those bedsteads ought to have been burnt, and supplanted by iron ones. We were also told that they were abundant at St. Mary's at Newington; and were present in the Holborn, Clerkenwell, Shoreditch, and a few other workhouses. Pains are taken to prevent their entrance on the first admission of inmates, but the occasional visits which the inmates make to their old haunts, and the admission of visitors and other persons, afford great facilities for their introduction; and, when once introduced, a perpetual warfare must be maintained against them to prevent the building from being overrun by them.

Ventilation.

VENTILATION.

The ventilation of the workhouses is almost everywhere defective, from the absence of efficient means of ventilation, and the almost universal habit of covering, or otherwise closing the ventilators. The first cause is almost, and the second quite universal.

When referring to the construction of workhouses, I pointed out conditions which were unfavourable to both light and ventilation, and which were very generally present, viz.: imperfectly ventilated central corridors, and imperfect communication between the corridors and the wards. To those were also added the narrowness of certain corridors, as at Greenwich, the great length of the corridors at Greenwich, Bethnal Green, and many other workhouses, without a sufficient number of transverse passages which have direct access to the outer air, and whatever circumstances were then cited as leading to deficient light must also be quoted as evidence of deficient ventilation.

These, however, do not apply to such workhouses as St. George's Hanover-square, Strand, and St. Margaret's at Kensington, where there are outer walls on both sides of the wards, nor to a large majority of the detached infirmaries which, for the most part are of one ward only in depth.

The root of the evil is doubtless the indifference to this subject, which until now has existed and even yet exists in reference to both private houses and public buildings; to want of due consideration of and knowledge upon the subject by those having the immediate charge of the wards, and to the rough-and-ready, but most inefficient habit of relying upon windows only for ventilation.

But notwithstanding the defective construction and the want of knowledge referred to, various means have been devised in each workhouse to aid in the work of ventilation. These are cited in detail in the special reports in the Appendix; and it will here suffice simply to name them.

1. Open fire grates are found in all workhouses, and with very few exceptions in every room, whilst in large wards there are usually two. In some, as at Wandsworth, they are very small; and however efficient when a fire is lit, are less effective in the summer time. Stoves have been introduced at Poplar which project into the room, and offer an open fire grate, and a hot plate at the top for the distribution of heat and for warming the dishes; but whilst I do not doubt their advantage, they are not equal to chimney grates as ventilators during the summer time.

The windows are for the most part double hung, but in some the lower sash is fastened. In several workhouses one or both sashes are fastened by hinges, and fall forwards into the room, either into racks, as at St. George's Hanover-square, St. George-the-Martyr, and Chelsea, or are held by ropes, as at Newington. Usually the wider opening is at the top, but in a few places, as in the lunacy wards at Camberwell, it is at the bottom, and directs a large body of cold air downwards. At St. George's at Brompton, each large pane is made to open; and in many workhouses smaller portions of a window than a whole sash



sash open. In a few workhouses, as St. Martin's and Chelsea, the outer windows, whether square, semicircular, or circular, move on a central pin, and open at both ends; and this is a very frequent arrangement in workhouses, in reference to the windows in inner walls. In some of them, moreover, there is a central portion which moves upon a central pin.

The size of the windows, and their proximity to the top and bottom of the wards, varies very much; but very generally they are high from the floor, and on the upper floor are low from the ceiling. On the inner wall, or in walls, as at Bethnal Green, where the windows look into a lanc, or into a passage used by other classes of inmates, they are usually very small, irregular, and placed very high.

3. One or more panes not unfrequently consist of perforated glass, or finely perforated zinc; but sometimes, as at St. George-the-Martyr, care has not been taken to place such in the top row of panes.

This system is, perhaps, more frequent in reference to lavatories, sinks, and water-closets than the wards. In a few workhouses, as East London, a wide and deep strip of perforated zinc had been placed in the upper window frame; but the window was not fixed open.

4. At Camberwell, the master has cut about half-an-inch from the top of one of the panes, in one or more windows in a ward. At Chelsea and other places, this is also effected with the gas lamp, which is placed in partition walls; but it is never carried to the extent of rendering the lamp a means of ventilation.

5. At St. Pancras the inner windows of the lying-in-wards are separated at the bottom from the wall to the extent of six inches or eight inches, and the space is filled in with perforated zinc; whilst over it, and on the outer side of the ward, a gas jet is placed to light both the room and the corridor. This by rarefying the air, aids much in ventilating the rooms.

6. Openings are made at the top of the inner walls, or over the doors, which are left open; or, as at St. George's, Hanover-square, are covered with wooden shutters, which are moved by ropes.

7. Openings of all sizes are placed in the outer walls at the top and bottom (one or both), which are simply defended by wide iron gratings on the outside; or, in addition, have a sliding shutter, as at Lambeth, and many other workhouses; or are covered with perforated zinc, with or without shutters, as at Wandsworth. In some places, as the latter workhouse, this perforated zinc had been painted over; and in others the open spaces left in the walls had become the receptacles for rubbish, and supplied in their degree the absence of lockers for the inmates!

In a few, as at St. Pancras, the outer and inner openings were not in the same plane, but were connected by a shaft. In some the shaft went from the bottom towards the roof, where it terminated in an open end; and the roof was either closed, or had an opening by which a communication with the outer air was freely established. In some, as at St. Margaret's at Kensington, air flues had been built in the walls, but no ventilator had been placed in them, and their existence had only recently been discovered.

In some, as at Islington, air-bricks, with iron bars on both sides, were placed in numbers around the room.

The ventilators which were placed at the lower part of the room either opened near the floor, as at Rotherhithe, and were covered as above mentioned, or they passed under the floor and communicated with ventilators which were placed in the floor of one room and the ceiling of the room below. These were sometimes large and circular, as at West London, but usually they were the size of two bricks only. Sometimes a channel had been laid direct to the ventilators in the floor, but otherwise the air thus introduced was left to find its way between the joists.

The ventilators in the floor were very generally circular, and consisted of two plates, by the change of the position of one of which the openings were closed. One such was usually placed in the central line of the room; but in some there were two. Those in the ceiling were sometimes defended in the same manner, but more usually they were covered with zinc, perforated to various sizes; or, as at Fulham, were covered by shutters which slid along on a cord being pulled, or

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had shutters placed on their upper side which were removed by the hand or by ropes.

In some, as at St. George-the-Martyr, these openings in the upper storey were very large, and let down volumes of sooty or smoky air, and in others were only six or eight inches square.

8. A system of tubes was observed in several workhouses, which passed across the room and communicated with the outer air at both ends; and in order to act as ventilators were perforated throughout their course. Some were round, as at Bermondsey; whilst others were four-sided, as at St. Mary Newington; but they produced a less beneficial effect than would have resulted, if the outer openings only had been left open.

In others, as in certain wards at Bermondsey, wide wooden tubes were carried from the lower rooms to the roof.

In the uppermost rooms in many workhouses, as at Poplar, round metal tubes passed directly through the roof, and were either open at the bottom or had a covering of perforated zinc, or had a wooden or metal plate moving on a central pin, which wholly or partially covered the opening when moved by a string. Many of these had cowls at the top which diminished the force of the descent of the air. In some, as at Poplar, jets of gas were burning in the tubes day and night.

In a few workhouses, as at Bermondsey and the Strand, a tube was placed along the ceiling, which communicated with the flue or the outer air by one end, and by the other received the products of combustion of a gas flame, which was placed underneath. When the gas was burnt night and day, and the tube was of good size, the ventilation was materially improved; but where, as in the Strand, the gas was not burnt continually, and the tube was very small, the effect was inconsiderable.

9. In a few workhouses, as at Greenwich, holes had been bored in the bottom or at the top of the doors, or parts of the panel had been removed and were replaced by perforated zinc.

10. At Hampstead, Watson's Syphon Tubes had been employed, but not with satisfactory results.

11. Arnott's Ventilators have been introduced into many workhouses, sometimes in connection with the chimney flue only, and at others with the outer air. In some they worked satisfactorily; but this was by no means universal.

12. Louvre lights in the roof either of the wards, as at St. George-in-the-East, or of the corridors, were sometimes found.

Hence, as a general expression, it may be stated that, in addition to fireplaces and windows, there were various devices adopted by which the outer air could be further admitted. But it must be added:

(A.) That in some rooms, in nearly all workhouses, no such aids to ventilation existed.

(B.) Where they did exist they were insufficient, in number and arrangement, to keep the wards sweet and fresh.

(C.) They were almost universally closed; and then the ventilation, even with ventilators, was left to windows only.

(D.) The windows were universally, or very nearly so, shut at night, and in cold and wet weather, and were not then used as ventilators. When opened by day they poured large volumes of air upon the patients beneath, and must have often caused injury to health; and the officials thus defeated their own object.

(E.) In



(E.) In many cases the ventilators defeated their object by being too small, but in others by being too large, and too imperfectly covered by perforated metal to protect the inmates from direct draughts.

(F.) In like manner the air bricks were often so open and large as to allow great currents of air to pass through the floors and ceilings, and were not properly covered; and as this could not be borne they defeated their own object.

(G.) The aged seek warmth. Inmates, of whatever age, living in the wards did not notice the foulness of the atmosphere, and the deficient ventilation led to elevation of the temperature, and caused intolerance of cold air; and hence, no complaint of want of ventilation, but rather of too much ventilation, occurred, and the ventilators were closed.

(H.) In some workhouses, as the Strand, Wandsworth, Rotherhithe, and St. George's-in-the-East, the ventilation of certain wards was effectually prevented by enclosing the landings, or the entrance from the stairs or passages, by wooden lobbies, and leaving no other opening but the door. Some of the small wards at the Strand were, from this cause chiefly, highly discreditable to the officials, and injurious to the inmates. Indeed, these wards were the worst ventilated of any in the London workhouses, and that for a cause so simple and evident that the medical officers and other officials ought to have noticed it, and have called the attention of the guardians specially to it.

(I.) The special reports, in the Appendix, will show that blank walls exist, in many wards in the workhouses, in which ventilating windows might have been placed; and I have pointed out the various improvements which are necessary in the different workhouses. It only now remains for me to indicate those in which the ventilation of the whole or of certain of the wards was exceedingly defective, and those in which the general arrangements for ventilation were unusually good.

The former were the Strand and St. Margaret's at Westminster, almost universally, with certain parts of St. Saviour's, Greenwich, Marylebone, St. Giles', Clerkenwell, Whitechapel, Mile End, St. James', Kensington, Rotherhithe, St. George's-in-the-East, St. Pancras, St. Luke's Middlesex, St. Mary's at Newington and Hampstead.

The latter were St. George's at Brompton, and in Mount-street, the Infirmary at St. Saviour's, and St. Giles', Marylebone, Holborn (not the room for imbeciles), Whitechapel, (except some foul and lunacy wards) East London, Islington, St. George-in-the-East (new wards), Paddington, and Camberwell; but it must not be inferred that the ventilation was therefore quite satisfactory in any, and certainly not in all the buildings in any workhouse. The extremes are, no doubt, the Strand on the one hand, and St. George's at Brompton, on the other.

## NURSING.

*Nursing.*

The propriety of appointing paid nurses has now been almost universally admitted, for in only four workhouses did they not exist at the time of our visit, and in one of these the guardians were about to appoint one. Those workhouses are St. Olave, St. George-the-Martyr, St. James, and Islington.

The extent to which this principle is in operation is such, that the number of paid nurses in the different workhouses varies from 19 in Marylebone, 16 in St. Pancras, and 12 at Shoreditch, to one at Bermondsey, St. Martin's, Holborn, Kensington, St. George-in-the-East, and Hampstead. So, in like manner, the necessity for further appointments is not uniform, except in this, that with only two or three exceptions additional nurses are needed.

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The following Table shows the number of nurses appointed at the period of our visit, with the number still required, in the several workhouses :

Nursing.

TABLE No. 4.

NUMBER of PAID NON-PAUPER NURSES now Appointed, and the Number now required.

		Paid Nurses				Paid Nurses	
		Now.	Still needed.			Now.	Still needed.
1	Lambeth, St. Mary - -	3 and dispenser.	7 or 8	19	St. Margaret, Westminster -	3	2
2	St. Saviour's - - -	4 3, small pay- ment.	—	20	St. James, Westminster - -	none	4
3	Bermondsey, St. Mary Mag- dalen.	1 is also the as- sistant matron.	5 or 6	21	Kensington - - -	1	6
4	St. Olave's - - -	none	3	22	St. Margaret, Kensington -	3	3
5	St. George-the-Martyr -	none ; 1 is to be appointed.	5	23	St. George, Hanover-square	2	2
6	Greenwich - - -	4	—	24	Hackney - - -	2	4
7	St. Marylebone - - -	19	—	25	East London - - -	4	—
8	St. Giles - - -	2	4	26	Islington, St. Mary - -	none	—
9	St. Martin-in-the-Fields -	1	2	27	St. George, at Brompton -	1 and assistant matron.	1
10	Strand - - -	2	3 or more.	28	Chelsea - - -	2	5
11	Holborn - - -	1	2	29	Fulham - - -	1	2 or 3
12	Clerkenwell, St. James -	3 2, small pay- ment.	3	30	Rotherhithe, St. Mary -	2	2
13	Shoreditch, St. Leonard -	12	5	31	St. George-in-the-East -	1 for imbeciles.	8
14	Whitechapel - - -	4	5	32	St. Paneras - - -	16	1
15	City of London - - -	6	3	33	Paddington - - -	2	—
16	Mile-end Old Town - -	7 2, small pay- ment.	6	34	Bethnal-green - - -	4	4
17	Stepney - - -	5	3	35	St. Luke, Middlesex - -	3	2
18	Poplar - - -	2	3	36	Camberwell, St. Giles -	5 and a man cook, with small sa- lary.	2
				37	St. Mary, Newington - -	2	3
				38	Wandsworth and Clapham -		3
				39	Hampstead - - -	1	1
				40	West London - - -	3	3

In addition to the paid nurses there was always a pauper nurse, and almost always one or two pauper helpers, in each ward. Nearly all these received extra rations, and particularly of meat, tea, beer, or gin ; whilst some had a distinctive dress ; and others, as at St. George Hanover-square, Hackney, Islington, St. George's at Brompton, St. George-in-the-East, St. Luke's, &c., &c., received from 5s. per quarter to 2s. per week.

The opinion which was entertained of pauper nurses by the medical officers, masters, and matrons, varied in the several workhouses ; but, with three or four exceptions, all concurred in the opinion that they were generally so old, ill-trained, and unreliable, as to render it needful to appoint paid nurses.

As to the alleged habits of drunkenness and pilfering, we found very generally that whenever the nurses were allowed to go out of the workhouse some of them returned the worse for liquor, and that sometimes one or two who had not left the workhouse had been found in that state ; but the instances were extremely few in any workhouse in proportion to the whole.

In one or two cases pilfering of the stimulants had been proved against a nurse ; and in numerous instances this had been suspected ; but in by far a greater



greater number of cases it had not even been suspected, or was positively denied, or had not been proved.

Their capability to read the directions upon the medicine bottles differed very much, since in some workhouses, as at Lambeth, scarcely any could read; whilst in others, as at Shoreditch and St. Olave's, all, or very nearly all, could read. At Wandsworth, Camberwell, Poplar, St. George-the-Martyr, and Bermondsey, and the great majority of workhouses, some could read, and others could not read. In some, as at St. Olave, it was understood that the pauper nurses should be able to read (although, as we found, this was not strictly true in practice); whilst in nearly all others this was not regarded as a qualification.

Upon the general question of the propriety of employing this class of persons, all agreed that under any system of paid nursing they would still be required, but only in their proper capacity as servants; and that it would not be possible to diminish their number or cost. Some, as at St. George's at Brompton and the City of London, claimed for their inmates a much higher position than that due to the inmates of other workhouses, since formerly they had been gentlemen's servants, with character and training. At Islington, St. James, and Poplar also, they were regarded as valuable and trustworthy persons; and, speaking generally, as well-conducted as servants in general. At Islington, the master and matron considered that, in their present workhouse, it would be most undesirable to appoint paid nurses, but such would not be the case in the new workhouse which is to be erected. On the other hand, the officers of some other workhouses spoke in very strong terms of the bad conduct and inefficiency of some of their pauper nurses.

It was not difficult for us to notice a great difference in the appearance and intelligence of this class of persons in the different workhouses, and to form an opinion of the unfitness of many of them. Those who would see pauper nurses of the best class should visit the Islington, City of London, and St. George's at Brompton workhouses, and would find them very neat and clean in their persons, respectful in their behaviour, intelligent, and well-conducted.

In this, as in other matters, the whole truth is not told by referring to either the best or the worst. Each person has her own merits and demerits; and amongst the many hundreds who are employed in the metropolitan workhouses, some will be well and others ill-conducted.

Something in this matter will depend upon the class whence the inmates generally are derived, and the capability to obtain labour in their own neighbourhood: something also upon the judgment with which they are selected, and the mode in which they are treated. Generally speaking, a pauper nurse of efficiency and character will find profitable employment out of the workhouse at certain seasons of the year; and if she have not such a tie to the workhouse as the presence of her children there, will leave it when she has become a fairly good nurse. In other instances the matron appears to act in opposition to the medical officer, and for reasons of her own, removes a woman who has been for some time acting as a nurse, and has gained a certain efficiency. In others there are no rewards, or they are unfitting or inadequate. In only a minority of the workhouses is a pecuniary payment made, and that is not always dependent upon perfectly good behaviour.

In some the extra food does not amount to meat daily, and the dress of many is only as shabby as that of ordinary inmates; and hence, instead of inducements being offered to the industrious, the temptation is rather to be an ordinary inmate and idle.

In not a few cases were they spoken of before their faces as ill-conducted drunken pauper nurses, and their self-respect was, at any rate, not increased; and in some cases they had been compelled to nurse by night as well as by day, and thus became fatigued and disgusted.

Last, and perhaps most important of all, the habit of drinking strong drinks, which is so generally alleged against them, is cultivated by the allowance of one pint, or a pint and a half of strong porter daily, or at night only, with one or more glasses of gin for night duty or disagreeable work.

What might be the effect of a careful selection of persons; a monetary allowance carefully graduated to good behaviour, and placed in the savings bank; of good and proper clothing; of behaviour towards them calculated to excite their own respect; of the introduction of the teetotal pledge, and, whilst discountenancing the use of strong liquors, supplying good and comfortable food,



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whether by night or day : and of religious instruction and training, has yet, I think, to be proved.

Under existing circumstances the class is a mixed one ; the good, the bad, and the moderately efficient ; but under the constant supervision of properly-paid and trained nurses they will be of great value.

On the subject of their inability to read, I must remark, that whilst it is, I believe, general, it is not universal, whether in any, or in all the workhouses ; and it is desirable that a just estimate should be formed of its effect in the administration of medicines. On this subject I remark—

1. There are certain common medicines placed in each ward, which are known to both the nurses and the inmates by the bottles and their appearance. Such are aperient medicine and cough medicine, and the dose of each is known. A person unable to read would administer them with safety.

2. It is the practice in most workhouses to administer nearly all medicines in one uniform dose, as, for example, in some one, and in other workhouses two table-spoonfuls ; and thus errors could most rarely take place in reference to the dose.

3. The medical officer, or the paid nurse, directs the pauper nurse verbally as to the frequency with which medicine is to be administered to an inmate. The bottle being placed by the side of the patient, the right medicine will be administered ; and the only question which remains is the possible error in frequency. Again, there is something like a common agreement, and medicines are usually administered thrice a day ; moreover, should the nurse forget, there are always some inmates of the ward who can read, and we were informed that the pauper nurse was accustomed to seek their aid.

Hence it will be seen that the safeguards are much greater, and the probabilities of error much less than would at first sight appear.

This conclusion is, moreover, supported by the fact that, in our inquiries from the medical officers, we found but very few instances in which they had known that errors had been made ; and as this defect in the nurses is so general, the small amount of evil which has been known to result is so far satisfactory. The medical officer at St. Olave's stated that he had known both the wrong dose and the wrong medicine given ; and the medical officer at Lambeth had known the wrong dose given ; but neither of them had ever seen any evil results to follow. Other medical officers had also known similar results ; and as those who are acquainted with prescribing, are aware that the dose ordered is most rarely even an approach to the maximum one, it will readily be believed that medicine may be safely given with greater frequency, and in greater dose, than that commonly ordered.

Whilst, therefore, there is and should be a concurrence of opinion that no nurse should administer medicine who cannot read, I have reason to know that the inability to read is not universal, and that but little evil has resulted from the defect. Further, the statements which were made to us do not warrant a general charge to the effect that those persons pilfer the stimulants of the patients ; but there is reason to believe that a system of barter is sometimes adopted, by which the nurse, or indeed any inmate, exchanges one article of food for another of food or drink ; and that there are certain nurses who abuse the trust reposed in them.

MEDICAL OFFICER.

*Medical Officer.*

The medical officers, for the most part, reside away from the workhouses, and attend at certain periods, and are also engaged in private practice. In a few cases this is not the plan adopted.

In only four workhouses, viz., Marylebone, St. Pancras, St. Giles, and St. Olave, are there resident medical men. At Marylebone the medical officer resides away from the workhouse, but pays a resident assistant, and also a dispenser, who does not reside. At St. Pancras the medical officer and an assistant reside in the workhouse ; and at St. Olave and St. Giles they have charge of a district or parish also.

There are four workhouses where the medical officers devote their whole time to the duties ; but in three this is conjointly with the medical charge of the parish, or of a district in the parish. They are, St. Pancras, St. Olave, and St. Giles (already mentioned), and Mile End Old Town.

At



At St. Olave there is but one medical officer, whilst at St. Giles an assistant is appointed, who attends chiefly to the out-door poor. At Whitechapel and Mile End there are two medical officers respectively, each of whom takes charge of a part of the workhouse and a part of the out-door poor; and at Stepney the medical officer to the workhouse is also medical officer to the schools at Limehouse.

There are, in the whole, 16 medical officers of workhouses who are also medical officers of districts or parishes, viz., those at Bermondsey, St. Olave, St. Giles, Whitechapel (two), Mile End (two), St. James, Kensington, St. Margaret's at Kensington, St. George's, Hanover-square (two), Chelsea, Rotherhithe, St. George's-in-the-East, and Hampstead.

There are also five workhouses at which two medical men each are employed, viz., St. George's Hanover-square, Marylebone, St. Paneras, Whitechapel, and Mile End; and as nearly every medical officer to a workhouse has a deputy, there is a majority of workhouses in which more than the medical officer have occasional charge of the patients. Of these, in only six, viz., Strand, Poplar, Hackney, West London, Wandsworth, and Camberwell, do not the medical officers almost solely attend to their duty. At the Strand the private assistant of the medical officer attends daily. At Poplar the private assistant attends daily, and the medical officer two or three times a week; but the medical officer himself takes sole charge of the separate infectious building called the North-street Infirmary. At Hackney a partner does the chief work, and at Wandsworth and Camberwell the sons of the medical officers materially aid. At West London the medical officer is aged and unable to do the duty, but a recognised deputy performs it, and receives from the medical officer nearly the whole of the salary.

There are two workhouses, viz., Hampstead and Rotherhithe, where the medical officer is required by his contract to attend only on alternate days, except in cases of emergency (actually he attends more frequently); but in all others, I believe, the medical officer is expected to attend daily, or twice a day, besides his visits to special cases. The medical officers at Lambeth, Greenwich, Holborn, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, City of London, Stepney, Hackney, Bethnal Green, St. Luke's, West London, and probably a few others, always attend twice a day. Night visits are comparatively rare, as would be expected from the class of cases in workhouses. At Islington there may be an average of one weekly; at Chelsea, fortnightly; at Bethnal Green, one monthly; and at Hampstead, one six times in the year.

The usual routine is for the medical officer to attend at or before mid-day for his principal visit, and then he visits the infirmary or sick wards, and speaks to all the more important cases. He also walks into each infirm ward where there are some sick persons, and asks if any wish to see him, or he has arranged that the nurse shall have made the inquiry previously, and have communicated the result to him. In some cases this class of visits is not paid daily, but on alternate days, or semi-weekly, and there is less regularity in the visits paid to other wards.

There are, however, instances in which the sick cases are not seen daily; neither are all such seen at each visit. Thus the medical officer of the male inmates at Whitechapel sees the sick cases three or four times weekly, and does not see all each time, but sometimes only such as ask for him.

The diversity of action amongst the medical officers in reference to lunatics, which has already been pointed out, leads to diversity in the frequency of visits to the latter. When they are, as a class, placed upon the books of the medical officer, he visits them daily, as at Shoreditch, or two or three times weekly, as at Whitechapel, but otherwise only those are seen who are ill.

So, in like manner, with lying-in cases. Where there is a midwife the medical officer does not deem it needful to visit the cases, except when specially required, or when at a large workhouse, as at St. Paneras, there is a large number of cases, some of whom always require his attention.

In the evening he is required to examine applicants for admission, and to visit special cases.

The time devoted to the duties of his office differs materially according to the size of the workhouse, and probably his own habits and the urgency of other engagements, but when a visit is paid twice a day, the first is much the longer of the two. It was also difficult to arrive at a just estimate of the time which was then spent, since, in the larger workhouses, at least, the medical

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officer was sent for on numerous special occasions daily, besides his regular visits, and the frequency of such was capable only of a general computation. Moreover, it was necessary to include the time devoted to dispensing the medicines, particularly when the medical officer himself dispensed them in the workhouse, and the whole computation, therefore, sometimes included three persons, as at the Strand Union, where, in addition to the medical officer, a dispenser and an assistant attended at the workhouse at certain periods of the day, and consequently the time devoted to actual attention to the sick was less than the whole time stated. Hence, it will be understood that the periods given in the following table are only approximate, and would probably not be precisely the same if the same medical officers were to make another computation.

TABLE No. 5.

TIME spent in the WORKHOUSES daily by the MEDICAL OFFICER, his ASSISTANT, and DISPENSER.

		Hours.			Hours.
1	Lambeth, St. Mary - - -	Two thirds of day.	18	Poplar - - - - -	3 or 4
2	St. Saviour's - - - - -	1 to 3	19	St. Margaret, Westminster - -	2
3	Bermondsey, St. Mary Magdalen	2	20	St. James, Westminster - -	2
4	St. Olave's - - - - -	1 (all.)	21	Kensington - - - - -	3
5	St. George-the-Martyr - - -	1½	22	St. Margaret, Kensington - -	3
6	Greenwich - - - - -	6	23	St. George, Hanover-square - {	2 } 1 }
7	St. Marylebone - - - - -	6 and the whole time of the Assistant.	24	Hackney - - - - -	1½ to 2
			25	East London - - - - -	2
8	St. Giles - - - - -	6 (all.)	26	Islington, St. Mary - - -	2
9	St. Martin-in-the-Fields - -	2½	27	St. George's at Brompton - -	2
10	Strand - - - - -	4 with assistant and dispenser.	28	Chelsea - - - - -	2
			29	Fulham - - - - -	2 and 1 for dispenser.
11	Holborn - - - - -	2½	30	Rotherhithe, St. Mary - - -	
12	Clerkenwell, St. James - - -	2	31	St. George-in-the-East - - -	5
13	Shoreditch, St. Leonard - - -	4	32	St. Pancras - - - - - {	7 } 5 } (all.)
14	Whitechapel - - - - - {	1 } 1½ }	33	Paddington - - - - -	2½
15	City of London - - - - -	5	34	Bethnal Green - - - - -	4
16	Mile End Old Town - - - {	2 } 2 }	35	St. Luke, Middlesex - - - -	4
17	Stepney - - - - -	4	36	Camberwell, St. Giles - - -	
			37	St. Mary, Newington - - -	3
			38	Wandsworth and Clapham - -	1¾
			39	Hampstead - - - - -	1 to 3
			40	West London - - - - -	5

In five workhouses the average time devoted to the duty at the workhouse was less than two hours daily, viz. : St. George-the-Martyr, Whitechapel (each of two), Hackney, Wandsworth, and, perhaps, Hampstead. The number of sick upon the books, and the salaries of the medical officers at these workhouses, were as follows :—

TABLE No. 6.

	SICK.	SALARY.	EXTRAS.
		£.	£.
St. George-the-Martyr - - - - -	154	80	70
Whitechapel (male side) - - - - -	154	75	10
Hackney - - - - -	119	130	10
Wandsworth - - - - -	280	100	30
Hampstead - - - - -	91	40	30

Each medical officer at Whitechapel attends to about half of the workhouse, and one devotes one hour, and the other 1½ hours, or 2½ hours for the whole. The time was variously stated in reference to Hackney. The assistant of the medical officer and the master stated 1½ hours, the medical officer subsequently



quently two hours, and in a still later return  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours, showing the difficulty in forming a correct estimate. The medical officer at Hampstead being required to attend only on alternate days devotes from one hour to three hours to his duties.

In 14 workhouses the time devoted is two hours or less, viz.: those above-mentioned, with Bermondsey, Clerkenwell, Mile End (to each of two medical officers), St. Margaret's, Westminster, St. James, East London, Islington, St. George's at Brompton, and Chelsea.

In six workhouses from two to three hours are devoted, viz.: St. Martin's, Holborn, Poplar, Kensington, St. Margaret's at Kensington, and Paddington.

Those in which a large part of the day is devoted to the duties are the large workhouses, as Lambeth, Marylebone, St. Pancras, and St. George's-in-the-East, with the others at which there are resident medical men. Those occupying four hours, or upwards, for the whole workhouse, are Lambeth, Greenwich, Marylebone, St. Giles's, Strand, Shoreditch, Mile-end, City of London, Stepney, St. George's-in-the-East, St. Pancras, Bethnal Green, St. Luke's City-road, and West London.

*Salary.*—The salary of the medical officer is in all cases a fixed yearly payment, and in many workhouses there is also a further sum for extras. The former does not appear to have been based upon any general rule (except in the case of those who devote their whole time to their duties), but varies in every degree. The commercial rule of the relation of supply and demand has, moreover, not been always observed; for after the appointment upon those terms and without new appointments, the guardians have, from time to time, increased the salary to bring the amount nearer to that which their own sense of justice, and the views of the medical officer, have indicated. This process of increase, however slow, has been tolerably continuous in its course, and in several instances the salaries have been increased within a few months.

The extras provided for by the regulations of the Poor Law Board are for midwifery, lunacy certificates, removal of paupers, certificates, and vaccinations; and in only five or six workhouses is no allowance made for some of them. In reference to midwifery, it must be remarked that where a midwife is appointed, as at St. Pancras, Islington, Marylebone, St. Giles's, and Strand, either at a fixed salary or at a certain charge per case, no extras are allowed to the medical officer in some workhouses for aiding in such cases, whilst in others an allowance for difficult cases is made. At the Strand, the medical officer declined to attend midwifery at 10*s.* per case, the sum offered by the guardians, and a non-resident midwife performs the duty at 7*s.* 6*d.* per case; but in cases of unusual difficulty, the medical officer attends, and receives a higher fee. The medical officer at Islington did not desire to attend the midwifery cases; and the medical officer at St. Margaret's at Kensington attends a few out-door cases at 5*s.* per case! whilst 10*s.* is the lowest fee recognised by the Consolidated Order.

In some workhouses the number of such cases is quite insignificant both as to fee and trouble; but in others, as at St. Luke's, nearly 300 cases are attended yearly, and no separate fees as extras are allowed.

Usually, however, the medical officer attends the midwifery cases at a charge of 10*s.* or 11*s.* each for ordinary cases as extras; and it appeared to me on inquiry that where extras were allowed, a much larger proportion were attended by the medical officer himself, and fewer simply by the nurse; whilst without extras, as at Hackney and St. Luke's, a large proportion of the cases were virtually attended by the nurse.

Vaccination fees are rarely earned in a workhouse, since the infants usually leave at too early an age to warrant the performance of the operation; and in some instances the medical officer prefers that they should be earned by the medical officer of the parish or district.

In some workhouses, as at Mile-end, the medical officers do not fill up lunacy certificates; but this duty, with the remuneration attached to it, is given to a medical man who does not hold a Poor Law appointment. Usually, however, the medical officer is employed, and receives a fee of 10*s.* 6*d.* or one guinea.

A similar fee is sometimes given in the case of removal of paupers.

It has already been stated that, in 16 cases, the medical officer to the workhouse is also the medical officer to a district or parish, with separate salary;

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and it has appeared probable that in such cases the salary to the workhouse was less than it would have been, had not the medical officer held a district also.

The arrangements for the supply of drugs are very various.

In all cases where the medical officers devote their whole time to their duties, as at St. Luke's, St. Olave's, Mile-end, and St. Pancras, the guardians provide all drugs. The guardians further provide all drugs at Lambeth, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, City of London, Stepney, Poplar, Islington, Fulham, St. George's-in-the-East, Bethnal-green, St. Luke's, St. Mary's Newington, and Wandsworth; or in 17 of 40 workhouses. At the Strand Union, the guardians provide all drugs up to the value of 30 *l.* yearly, besides cod-liver oil and quinine; so that this may virtually be added to the 17 just mentioned, and it may be stated in nearly one-half of the workhouses the guardians provide all the drugs. Cod-liver oil alone is supplied by the guardians in two workhouses, viz.: Rotherhithe and East London, whilst cod-liver oil and quinine are paid for by the guardians in 12 workhouses, viz., Bermondsey, St. George-the-Martyr, Greenwich, St. Martin's at Holborn, Clerkenwell, St. Margaret's Westminster, and Kensington, St. George's Hanover-square, Hackney, and Camberwell, and at St. Margaret's (two), Holborn, and Bermondsey, other drugs are supplied.

Hence in 33 of 40 workhouses the guardians provide some or all of the drugs required by the sick.

The guardians do not provide any drugs at St. Saviour's, Marylebone, St. James's, Kensington, Chelsea, Hampstead, and West London; but in reference to one of them, at least, Marylebone, express provision is made for the value of the drugs in the 950 *l.* per year which is paid to the medical officer.

The cost of the drugs could only be obtained by us in a general manner; for in the case of drugs being supplied by the guardians to a district as well as to the workhouse, and also when a medical officer supplied drugs both to the workhouse and to his private patients, it was not possible to arrive at other than approximate results, and this may account in some measure for the discrepancy in the values given. At St. George-the-Martyr, with 404 inmates, and 154 sick, the cost was believed to be 10 *l.* to 12 *l.*, whilst at Marylebone, with 1,703 inmates and 414 sick, it was stated to be 300 *l.*

Hence, in duly estimating the salaries of the medical officers, and comparing them with each other, it is needful to regard not only the actual sum paid as salary, but also the extras and the source of the supply of drugs. In reference to the extras, it may be remarked that they varied from 10 *l.* to 70 *l.* per year, and in the following cases bore a near relation to that of the salary. Thus at St. George-the-Martyr the salary was 80 *l.*, and extras 70 *l.*; at Poplar, salary 50 *l.*, extras 46 *l.*; at Chelsea, salary 100 *l.*, and extras 70 *l.*; at Paddington, salary 40 *l.*, and extras 40 *l.* to 60 *l.*; at St. George-in-the-East, salary 100 *l.*, extras 60 *l.*; at Kensington, salary 85 *l.*, and extras for workhouse and district 80 *l.*

We did not in all cases inquire into the salary and extras allowed for the district or parish when the two appointments were held by the same person, but the total amount was sometimes considerable. Thus, at Bermondsey, 148 *l.*; St. Olave, 135 *l.*; Stepney, 192 *l.*; Kensington, 240 *l.*; St. George's Hanover-square, 205 *l.*; Chelsea, 240 *l.*; Rotherhithe, 135 *l.*; St. George-in-the-East, 255 *l.*; and Hampstead, 140 *l.*

The highest salaries were Marylebone, 950 *l.*; for medical officer, salaries of dispenser and resident assistant, and cost of drugs to workhouse; St. James, 350 *l.* for medical officer and drugs to workhouse and district; and Lambeth 300 *l.* for medical officer without drugs, and 20 *l.* to 30 *l.* for extras. The workhouses in which the salary and extras did not amount to 100 *l.* per year, were Rotherhithe, 36 *l.*; Hampstead, 40 *l.*; Fulham, 74 *l.*; and Poplar, 96 *l.*

In the case of those who devoted their whole time to the duties of the workhouse and district, the total emoluments were, St. Olave, 135 *l.*, with board and lodging; St. Giles, 285 *l.*, with lodging; Mile-end, 211 *l.* to 237 *l.*, without board or lodging, and St. Pancras, 200 *l.* and 85 *l.*, with board and lodging. The resident assistant at Marylebone received 100 *l.* per year with board and lodging.

The following table shows the total number of inmates in the workhouse, the number on the medical officer's books, the salary and extras, the source of the payment of drugs, and the time devoted to the duties in the several workhouses.

TABLE



TABLE No. 7.  
DUTIES and EMOLUMENTS of the MEDICAL OFFICER.

		Total Number of Inmates.*	Number on Medical Officer's Books.*	EMOLUMENTS.		Medical Officer finds Drugs.	Time Devoted. Hours.
				Salary.	Extras.		
				£.	£.		
1	Lambeth, St. Mary - -	879	500	300	20 to 30	none -	Two-thirds of day
2	St. Saviour's - - - -	405	140	100	none - -	all - -	1 to 3
3	Bermondsey, St. Mary Magdalen	531	114	80	33	chiefly -	2
4 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	St. Olave's - - - -	277	103	120	15	none -	1 (all.)
				district also.			
5	St. George-the-Martyr - -	404	154	100	70	chiefly -	1½
6	Greenwich - - - -	884	391	200	- -	ditto -	6
7	St. Marylebone - - - -	1,703	414	950	none - -	all - -	6
							and the whole time of the assistant.
8	St. Giles - - - -	667	80	250	15 to 20	none -	6 (all.)
9	St. Martin-in-the-Fields -	437	82	150	none - -	chiefly -	2½
10	Strand - - - -	556	175	105	25 to 27	little -	4
							with assistant and dis- penser.
11	Holborn - - - -	459	157	125	48	chiefly -	2½
12	Clerkenwell, St. James - -	529	214	130	lunacy certi- ficates.	ditto -	2
13	Shoreditch, St. Leonard - -	784	414	126	none - -	none -	4
14	Whitechapel - - - -	692	367	{ 75 75 }	{ 10 10 }	none -	{ 1 1½ }
15	City of London - - - -	844	470	275	25	none -	5
16	Mile-End Old Town - - -	530	120	{ 200 200 and district.	{ 11 37 }	none -	{ 2 2 }
17	Stepney - - - -	567	663	120	12 school, 60	none -	4
18	Poplar - - - -	472	130	50	46	none -	3 or 4.
19	St. Margaret, Westminster -	179		100	none - -	chiefly -	2
20	St. James, Westminster - -	614	224	350	none - -	all - -	2
21	Kensington - - - -	440	254	85	80 and in district	all - -	3
22	St. Margaret, Kensington -	647	400	160 and district.	5s. per case of midwifery in district.	chiefly -	3
23	St. George, Hanover-square -	265	100	{ 100 100 }	little - -	ditto -	{ 2 1 }
24	Hackney - - - -	613	119	130	- -	ditto -	1½ to 2
25	East London - - - -	653	228	125	20	ditto -	2
26	Islington, St. Mary - - -	470	205	160	lunacy certi- ficates.	none -	2
27	St. George at Brompton - -	320	80 to 90	100	- ? -	chiefly -	2
28	Chelsea - - - -	453	140	100	70	all - -	2
29	Fulham - - - -	312	140 to 150	50	24	none -	2
							and 1 for dispenser.
30	Rotherhithe, St. Mary - -	—	57	35	1	chiefly -	
31	St. George-in-the East - -	770	255	100	60	none -	5
32	St. Pancras - - - -	1,960	230 to 240	{ 160 85 }	40	none -	{ 7 5 } (all.)
33	Paddington - - - -	385	228	60	40 to 60	none -	2½

\* These numbers vary with the season of the year.

		Total Number of Inmates.	Number on Medical Officer's Books.	E M O L U M E N T S.		Medical Officer finds Drugs.	Time Devoted.
				Salary.	Extras.		
				£.	£.		
34	Bethnal-green - - - -	1,175	450	160	none - -	none -	4
35	St. Luke, Middlesex - - -	581	188	150	none - -	none -	4
36	Camberwell, St. Giles - -	404	171	130	25 to 30	chiefly -	
37	St. Mary, Newington - - -	482	151	105	11	none -	3
38	Wandsworth and Clapham - -	524	280	100	30	none -	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
39	Hampstead - - - -	114	91	40	- -	all - -	1 to 3
40	West London - - - -	456	257	110	12	all - -	5

DIETARY.

*Dietary.* THE subject of Dietary was not specially included in our instructions, and as we were informed by all the medical officers that they had full liberty to order whatever they thought necessary, it appeared to me that the sick dietary must be regarded as a part of the medical treatment, and left like the prescribing of medicines, to their knowledge and discretion. Moreover, it has always been a rule in the arrangement of workhouse dietaries to leave the dieting of the sick to the discretion of the medical officer, and although certain schemes of sick dietaries have been framed by those gentlemen, they are varied to suit the requirements of the individual cases. A collection of the whole of such in my own district, with other details of existing and proposed dietaries, have been prepared by me, and presented to Parliament by Mr. Villiers during the present Session.

But whilst deferring this question for future consideration, we noticed various defects which demand a remedy, viz :

1. As the chief part of the meat was usually cooked at the general kitchen, and at a considerable (as at Hackney, at a very considerable) distance from the sick wards, it was liable to become cold before it could be eaten. We found it nearly cold in several workhouses, but in others we were informed by the inmates that it was always warm.
- In some workhouses the joints were taken into the several wards and there cut up immediately before distribution, and hot-water dishes were used in a few workhouses, as at Shoreditch. In others, as at St. Saviour's, the joints were cut up on hot dishes in the kitchen of the infirmary, and the meat was served hot. In a few workhouses trays, more or less adapted to the purpose, were provided, in which the several messes were sent from the general kitchen. The best arrangement was found at the City of London workhouse, where a covered box was provided, holding, perhaps, six tin trays, and each tray divided into compartments about five inches square and two and a-half inches deep, holding separate messes, which, when taken into the infirmary, were placed upon plates. Hence the messes were closely packed, and the whole might be kept warm for a lengthened period.
- More usually, however, the messes were placed upon plates, and the plates piled one upon another on a tray. The tray was either entirely uncovered, as at St. Luke's, or had a cloth thrown over it, or it was enclosed by a wooden cover.
2. The arrangements as to the amount of cooking which could be effected in the kitchens of the infirmary wards were very various. In some, as at Wandsworth, there was no convenience for cooking, neither was there any efficient plan by which the meat could be kept warm whilst it was being cut up and divided. In others, chops and fish were cooked there, but usually only such articles as arrow-root and beef tea, or perhaps a milk pudding, could be prepared.
3. Roast meat was not usually provided for the inmates, but sometimes one roast meat dinner weekly was allowed. In some workhouses, as the City of London,



London, all the inmates of the infirmary had roasted meat once, and at Poplar the general inmates had it twice weekly, whilst there, as elsewhere, the medical officer ordered chops or other roasted food at his discretion.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the medical officers have full liberty to order whatever diet they think proper for their patients, including chops, fish, and various delicacies, and that these, with whatever stimulants are ordered, are supplied as freely as they could be in any other institutions; and hence that the medical officer must be held responsible for the fitness and sufficiency of the food supplied to the sick. But it cannot be doubted that in many of the workhouses there are defects in the cooking and distribution of the food so obvious that it is almost past belief that they should not have been noticed by the officials, and long ago removed. By nothing could the necessity for minute intelligent inspection on the part of the Poor Law Board, and the want of a deeper sense of responsibility on the part of the medical officers and masters, be better exemplified.

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DETAILS OF THE  
INSPECTION.  
Dietary.

## PART II.—GENERAL REVIEW AND SUGGESTIONS.

HAVING thus concluded the summary of the various facts which have been elicited during the inquiry, I purpose, after a few observations, to pass each subject in review in a more general manner, in order to suggest remedies for the existing defects.

Part II.  
GENERAL  
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SUGGESTIONS.

The following matters will require discussion :—

1. The Classes of Sick.
2. The Accommodation required by them.
3. The Bedding and other Furniture and Appliances for the Wards.
4. The Ventilation.
5. The Nursing.
6. The Chaplain.
7. The Medical Attendance and Medicines.
8. The Dietary.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

IT is quite needful for any one who would seek the improvement of the present workhouses, to bear in mind the alterations which have occurred in the classes of inmates. *General Observations.*

In the earlier history of the Poor Law Administration a very large proportion of the inmates of workhouses were persons under 60 years of age, and without such infirmity as might have disabled them from earning their living; whilst the aged and the sick were more commonly allowed to remain at their own homes.

Hence the greater part of the arrangements had reference to the able-bodied\* class, and the aim was to make the workhouse deterrent, with a view to exclude them as much as possible. This idea ran through the whole system of administration, including the diet, the bedding and furniture, the discipline and the labour; and even to this day it is predominant in the minds of many guardians, whether in town or country.

Special provision was not then made for the sick, except so far as regarded infectious diseases; and the first idea which led to the building of separate sick wards or of detached infirmaries, was not the separate treatment of the general sick, but the isolation of particular cases of fever, small-pox, and itch.

The essential part of the establishment was therefore the main building, with its day-rooms and bed-rooms, kitchens, and apartments for the officers; and the incidental part was the sick ward for the treatment of occasional cases. Hence the main building was large, and the infirmary small; and since it was desirable that the inmates generally should be lodged in large wards, whilst the

\* This term does not necessarily imply that the inmates of that class are able to work, but only that they are under 60 years of age, and free from serious bodily ailment. Hence, pregnant women, numerous imbeciles, persons who have lost the sight of one eye, &c., are thus designated, and the class is somewhat differently constituted in different workhouses.

the occasional cases of sickness should be kept separate, no more provision was made for sick cases than the occasion required, and the rooms were small. Moreover, as the occupation of the sick rooms would be temporary, and the occupants few, scarcely any attention was given to such conveniences as lavatories, baths, water-closets, and kitchens.

Within the last 15 or 20 years, however,—a period of general prosperity,—these views and circumstances have changed. The able-bodied poor find employment, and apply for admission in very reduced numbers. The aged and infirm, seeking relief, have been compelled to break up their homes and enter the workhouse; and it has been found more advantageous both to the sick, and to the administration of the Poor Law, to remove the sick from their poor and uncomfortable homes.

To so great an extent have the two former of these been carried that, with a few exceptions, there is scarcely enough of the able-bodied class in our workhouses to perform the menial work of the establishment; and their apartments are, comparatively speaking, few, whilst the workhouse has become filled with the aged and infirm, and consequently with a certain kind of sick; and the apartments provided for them have been found to be insufficient.

This has led to several alterations of the original design of the workhouse.

Room being required, and for other reasons, the children have been removed from nearly all the metropolitan workhouses, and placed in separate, or district schools.

Noisy and dangerous lunatics have been provided for in the various county and private pauper asylums, and have been removed from their former home—the workhouse. The quiet lunatics and imbeciles, when in considerable numbers, have been placed in separate wards; and in many cases in order to afford more room for other classes, have had separate buildings erected for them.

Cases of an infectious and dangerous character, as certain kinds of fever and small-pox, have, with very general consent, been congregated in hospitals set apart for those diseases, and removed from the homes of the poor, the asylums, and workhouses, and speaking generally, from the general hospitals also. This, however, is of recent date, and has led to the removal of such cases from the sick and infectious wards of workhouses, and has so far superseded the main object for which those wards were erected.

This has led to a further change; for room being greatly required in the main building, cases have been removed to the wards in question, and the sick have, with more or less universality, been separated from the other inmates. This has further led to the idea that the sick should be so separated in these institutions, and that separate sick wards, or detached infirmaries, should be erected; and that has been supported by the recent facts that the tramp wards and nightly refuges, which have so greatly increased of late, have supplied to some workhouses no inconsiderable number of persons not merely destitute, but ill.

See then the effect of these various circumstances.

1. The best and largest rooms were placed in the main building, and the infirmary rooms were small and often without suitable conveniences.

2. The changes before referred to having occurred more or less generally, architects while retaining in the main the designs of former periods, have in the newer workhouses enlarged the accommodation for the aged and infirm, have built detached infirmaries with rooms somewhat larger than formerly, and have in some degree added to the conveniences required in a separate building; but in no case has this change extended so far as to make the infirmary fitted to receive all the bed-ridden and the sick amongst the aged and infirm, neither has it caused the infirmary to be independent of the main building by the erection of kitchens, at which all the food required in the infirmary could be prepared.

3. We have arrived at a halting point at which wards are provided in the infirmary for the sick paupers, and possibly for some of the aged and infirm, and kitchens are furnished to warm the food which has been cooked in the main building, and sometimes to cook certain kinds of food, as chops, fish, and arrowroot.

4. The



4. The problem which now awaits solution is, whether it is needful to remove the sick from the main building, and place them in buildings apart from it. If it should be solved in the affirmative, it will follow that the infirmary must ere long become the main building, and the main building become comparatively superfluous.

In illustration, take the two newly erected and most advanced workhouses in the metropolis, Mile-end Old Town and the City of London workhouses. There is no longer one main building in which all the inmates, except infectious cases, may be placed, but a whole village is now comprised within their boundary walls.

They have first sent their fever and small-pox cases to the hospitals, and their noisy and dangerous lunatics to the asylums, for all of which they pay. They subscribe to the Lock Hospital, and send there nearly all their venereal cases.

The children at Mile End occupy a large detached building with its officers, play ground, and all the conveniences of an independent institution. They have also a separate and detached hospital for the children when sick. The children belonging to the City of London Union have been placed in schools quite apart from the workhouse.

The imbeciles and lunatics are placed in two large detached buildings, with their officers and every necessary convenience for the treatment of their sick.

The infirmary is also a separate and detached building, adapted to the treatment of both sexes.

Hence, there is left for the main building only the aged and infirm, the few able-bodied, and the kitchens, dining hall, the apartments of the officers, and the board-room of the guardians, and all the space required for the offices of such an institution.

Moreover, amongst the aged and infirm there are also some who are bed-ridden and sick, who have the visits of the medical officer, and who are properly and efficiently treated there. The main building is, in fact, the collection of offices, and the hospital or asylum for the aged.

Requesting that these facts may be borne in mind, I now proceed to consider the subjects in the order already stated.

#### CLASSES OF THE SICK.

The present arrangement for fever and small-pox cases is one of general convenience to the guardians and officers, and, as the payment in fever cases is 1 s. per day, the plan rather lessens than increases the cost to the guardians. The removal of the venereal cases in like manner is very advantageous, since it aids greatly in the plan of classification, and removes a source of moral contamination from the other inmates. *Classes of the Sick.*

Hence, if those arrangements could be carried out fully, I do not see any reason for change; but it is known that the fever hospital has been full, and that all the hospitals for special cases have been compelled temporarily to suspend admissions. This has not been unattended by expense, danger, and anxiety, and has led the guardians at St. Pancras to desire that the Poor Law Board would raise up some organization by which several fever and small-pox hospitals might be erected in various parts of the metropolis.

It is, however, quite needful to bear in mind that the number of cases of small-pox has undoubtedly diminished of late years, and that the increased efforts to enforce vaccination may reasonably be expected to still further diminish it. If, therefore, the cases can be efficiently treated, even at some inconvenience, with the existing arrangements, it may be questioned whether it is wise to change it.

Moreover, the number of fever cases has varied so much in the course of years, that whilst scarcely any were admitted to the fever hospital for a considerable period, at the present time the whole space of the fever hospital is filled, and additional temporary buildings have been erected, and are also filled.

But, as in former times, this large accession of fever cases will diminish: nay, if there be any virtue in improved sanitary conditions, it is more likely to diminish now than at any former period, and there might be scarcely need for the present excellent institution. I do not doubt that if it were convenient to erect a temporary fever hospital at a distance from the present one, it would be convenient to the poor and to the guardians of the poor, but I doubt whether it would be wise for the Poor Law Board to raise up a special organization for a temporary purpose. In the event of any general hospital scheme being fruitful,



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it might not be difficult to provide such temporary accommodation for fever cases as may now be required, but in the meantime, there should be two suitable wards in every workhouse in which infectious cases might be placed, and such cases should not be admitted into the general wards.

In reference to venereal cases, I think it matter of regret that there is not accommodation in hospitals set apart for the treatment of this disease for all the cases which come under the Poor Law administration. It is most desirable that persons who have contracted venereal disease, many of whom are most depraved, should not be found in workhouses, and, indeed, the very name of the disease should there be unknown. The Lock Hospital is insufficient for this purpose, and it is worthy of consideration whether it might not be enlarged, or another institution established. In this, as in the former case, the guardians might very properly pay the cost of treatment.

Cases of itch and such others as, by reason of discharges or incontinence of urine are offensive to others, should be placed in separate wards, and proper appliances for their care and treatment provided.

Further arrangements are needful in reference to noisy and dangerous lunatics, by which they might not be admitted to the workhouse at all, or, being there, might be removed immediately. At present so many formalities must be gone through, that at least two days, and oftentimes 10 or 14 days, are consumed in them, and in the meantime the patient is not admitted to the asylum. There seems to be no reason why regulations should not be made in London for the removal of every case within 24 hours. It also came to our knowledge, at Paddington, that such cases are not admitted into the lunatic asylum, if, at the same time, they are afflicted with certain skin disease, and such cases had been sent back to the workhouse at much risk and cost. This, in the interest of humanity, should be prevented, by placing them in separate wards at the asylum, but padded rooms should be provided in every workhouse for their temporary care.

At present the county asylums are commonly full, and a few cases are temporarily retained in the workhouses from that cause. The private asylums have, I believe, increased their charges lately, and thus the guardians are tempted to allow cases improperly to remain in the workhouse. More accommodation is needed for this class, and, on a suitable opportunity occurring, it might be desirable for the Poor Law Board to sanction some general scheme by which the paupers of this class in the metropolitan district might be brought together, and some education given to idiotic children.

The isolation, or otherwise, of the quiet imbeciles and lunatics in separate wards, or in separate buildings, must depend upon their number, and the proportion of helpless cases in the workhouse. When they are few I think they may be very properly mixed with the general inmates, since, with proper care to remove noisy and dirty cases, they are often useful, and not annoying, and appear to me to be much happier than when congregated together. Certainly in country districts that is the best course. When they are numerous, it is no doubt necessary that there should be special attendants for them, and thence it would follow that they should be warded separately.

Whatever evil attaches to the congregation and separation of this class is much diminished by the care which is frequently taken of them. Their wards in size, construction, and decoration are often far better than those provided for the sick, whilst the bathing, washing, and water-closet accommodation is superior, and the means of amusement greater. The Commissioners in Lunacy, aided by the sympathy which is felt for those helpless people, have succeeded in inducing the guardians of many workhouses to provide ample care and accommodation for those under their special supervision, and have set an example which might well be imitated in reference to the general sick, but in some workhouses the accommodation is still very unsatisfactory. No special provision is, however, made for the treatment of this class (except when suffering from bodily ailments), and the sole object is to take care of them, and to render them comfortable.

Whenever it is necessary to procure additional space for other classes, it would be convenient probably to build wards for this class apart from the main building. There is not, moreover, any necessity to keep them in the infirmary, and in like manner when space is required in the infirmary, they might be accommodated elsewhere.

In nearly all workhouses there are children who are too young to be removed to the separate or district schools. There are also others who have been  
admitted



admitted to the workhouse temporarily, with a view to ascertain if they are sufficiently well to be passed to the schools: and in some the children, when sick, are placed in the workhouse. There are therefore always some, and in certain workhouses far too many, children retained in the workhouse; the accommodation and opportunities for playing in the fresh air are far too limited and imperfect, whilst very little is done in some of the workhouses for their amusement. Hence the tone of health is not likely to be very good, and some are always sick. It is, I think, needful that there should be a sick nursery in every workhouse receiving children, in which they may be placed and treated apart from the adults. Cases of scarlet fever and of hooping cough should also be isolated.

The sick amongst the aged and infirm should, I think, be treated in their own wards, and in the body of the workhouse. No advantage follows the removal of these cases, except when afflicted with some acute attack of disease, neither is it advisable to congregate all the bedridden cases together. There are always amongst this class a large proportion who leave their beds and their wards, and thus so far convert the ward into a dormitory, instead of a day and night room, and improve the sanitary arrangements of the room; but where the contrary conditions prevail, and nearly every inmate in a ward is bedridden or old, the effect is depressing, and the sanitary arrangements must be less perfect.

The proportion of women to men is about as two to one.

The habit of congregating the bedridden together and placing them in a low upper room, as at Lambeth, is much to be deprecated.

I am of opinion that some attention must be given to the re-arrangement of the classes in the main building of the workhouse,—setting aside probably some of the leading ideas now no longer applicable,—and ascertaining the plan upon which the whole building may be treated as an hospital or an asylum.

There are in every workhouse certain wards which are of better construction and with greater space than others, and in such should be placed the sick properly so called, since they are, for the most part, not only good, but better than the detached infirmary wards. Hence in those cases in which additional wards are required for the sick, it may be open to question whether they may be more conveniently obtained by the enlargement of the infirmary or of the main building. In considering that question, it will be needful to disengage the mind from the idea that there is any special advantage in placing them in an infirmary simply from the destination of the building. If there be an advantage, it must be in isolation or space, or the convenience of attendants and officers; but cases requiring isolation are for the most part sent out of the workhouse; as to space, the wards in the body of the workhouse are usually the best; as to convenience, the lavatory, bathing, and other accommodation is seldom greater in the infirmary; the cooking accommodation is always less, the attendants are fewer, and the medical and other officers can re-arrange their plans so as to make their visits equally convenient anywhere. There is no charm in an infirmary for the treatment of the sick if the accommodation is defective, and the aim must be to find the best accommodation, whether in the body of the workhouse or in the infirmary. Some of the rooms on the upper floors of workhouses are, from their construction and means of ventilation, admirably adapted for sick rooms.

The position of the labour or lying-in wards is sometimes very inconvenient, or scarcely decent, as at St. Mary Newington and Wandsworth. Privacy should be added to convenience of position, and the labour ward be a part of or in close contiguity with the lying-in ward.

Day-rooms are much more required in a workhouse than in an hospital, since a larger proportion of the inmates can get up and leave the wards; and as this is most desirable, I think that a proportion of day-rooms should be attached to the wards, and the meals be taken in them. Convalescent wards would be useful.

#### CONSTRUCTION AND ALTERATION OF WORKHOUSES.

There can be no doubt that the recommendations now made in reference to floor space and cubical space will demand an increase in the accommodation, (particularly for women) in very nearly all the workhouses; and, in effecting this, much care and consideration should be devoted to the subject by the guardians

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of each workhouse before a plan be finally decided upon. I have referred to the several requirements in the special reports, and, from only one inspection of these large institutions, could not venture to indicate the precise manner in which they should be effected; but, as an indication of my own views, I offer the following observations:—

1. As cases of fever, small-pox, syphilis, and dangerous lunacy, and children, have, for the most part, been already removed from the workhouses, it is scarcely possible to carry the system of exclusion or elimination further, and the plan must rather be to consolidate the existing buildings.

As the aged and infirm do and will always constitute the great mass of the inmates, and be the source whence the sick will be chiefly derived, the main building should be appropriated to their use. Sick wards should be selected, into which such of them as are very ill, and such others as have been admitted on account of illness, may be placed, but it will be difficult, if not impossible, to draw a line between those two classes, since the sick will be usually the aged and infirm, and the aged and infirm will commonly supply the sick. The able-bodied may, with advantage, be placed elsewhere, when that is necessary; and the main building should contain only the offices, officers' apartments, the aged and infirm, the sick, and the lying-in cases, and perhaps the sick nursery. It may even be a question whether the offices and the apartments of the master, which occupy so much of the main building, might not be advantageously placed in a separate building.

All that is now required beyond this is one or two infectious wards, one or two venereal wards, one or two wards for offensive cases, and one or two itch wards for each sex. The lunatics, when numerous, might also advantageously occupy separate buildings. A sick nursery should always be provided, and it may be placed either in the body of the workhouse, or elsewhere.

In this view the infirmary buildings as now existing will be sufficient; and the enlargement of the body of the workhouse is that which will be required.

2. In carrying out this leading principle, the classification would be much simplified; but having regard to existing diversity of arrangements in different workhouses, some exceptions must be allowed. Thus, where good detached infirmary buildings exist, as at Marylebone, or where the sick wards are in general very excellent and numerous, as at St. Pancras, it would be quite right to continue the present system.

In reference to the great majority of the older workhouses, as there are not usually detached and properly adapted infirmary buildings, the plan suggested may be as easily carried out as any other; but if additional buildings should be required, and from the nature of the land they must be detached, it is probable that good infirmary wards might be the most conveniently built.

3. It is desirable that a comprehensive plan should be devised in many of the workhouses, with a view to bring together and consolidate the numerous detached buildings which are now placed upon the land without order, and which needlessly diminish the air space and exercising grounds.

4. Several of the workhouses, as Clerkenwell, and St. George-the-Martyr, the main buildings at St. Giles, and at Rotherhithe, and the Old North-street Infirmary at Poplar, should certainly be taken down and rebuilt. Hackney, and St. Margaret's Westminster, must be materially altered, or should be placed in the same category.

5. Several, as Islington, St. Martin's, Greenwich Infirmary, Strand, St. George-in-the-East (part of), are, it is said, to be taken down; and, as I am informed, negotiations have been in hand which might have led to the removal of St. Pancras and St. Margaret's at Kensington.

6. Others, as Lambeth, Poplar, St. Luke's, Holborn, and Bermondsey, may fairly demand much consideration before any material additions are made on their present sites; and it may be that the proper course would be to remove them.

7. As to Shoreditch, Whitechapel, City of London, Stepney, St. Margaret's at Kensington, East London, St. George's at Brompton, Fulham, Rotherhithe, St. Pancras,



St. Pancras, Paddington, Bethnal Green, Hackney, Camberwell, St. Mary Newington, Wandsworth, and West London, there can be no doubt that any required improvements may be readily effected.

As regards changes of less degree, additional room may be obtained in some workhouses, as Stepney and East London, by removing the lunatics from the infirmary, and placing them in a separate building; and in many others, as at Bethnal Green and Paddington, by raising the present buildings a story; and, speaking generally, I do not think that any serious difficulty will occur in providing all the space which will now be required.

As some of the present workhouses will doubtless need reconstruction, I offer the following recommendations:—

1. The best plan of construction is undoubtedly that of a single room in depth, with windows on both sides, and the passage through the middle of the rooms.

When, in order to bring the expense within legal limits, it is needful to build them two rooms in depth, there should be a wide central corridor, open at both ends, and made light and airy by cross corridors, also leading to the outer air at the end of each set of wards in length. The upper corridor should be ventilated by louvre lights; and all the corridors made light and airy. They should also be fitted up, and used as exercising grounds or day-rooms. They should have as many windows in their walls on both sides as there are windows in the outer walls; and, for the purpose of ventilation, should be so fixed that they cannot be quite shut. The windows should reach from three feet from the floor to within one foot from the ceiling, and air-brick ventilators, covered with perforated zinc, should be placed over each window, or between the windows, very near to the ceiling, and as many placed near to the floor. It is desirable that the line of the upper ones should be between the beds, and that of the lower ones under the beds.

There should also be ventilating windows or openings over every door.

2. The most convenient and economical size of room is 20 feet wide, and 10 to 12 feet high, with sufficient length, viz., 36 to 60 feet, to hold 6 to 10 beds on each side. A certain number of smaller wards would also be required.

3. The lavatories and bath-rooms might be placed in the cross corridors, or in rooms leading therefrom; but the sinks, water-shoots, and water-closets, should be placed in parts projecting from the cross corridors, and have cross external draughts.

Water-shoots, or the night urinals described on page 52, should in all cases be provided; and the buckets and large utensils should be placed in enclosed places in the corridors.

The plan of water-closet which is in use at Clerkenwell and some other workhouses, by which two or more closets must be flushed together, is adapted only to closets in the yard, and should not be allowed within the workhouse. The best closets are probably those invented by Jennings, and represented in the following woodcuts, and where water is not abundant the tip-up closet will probably be found to be the best.

Fig. 1.  
Valve Closet and Trap.

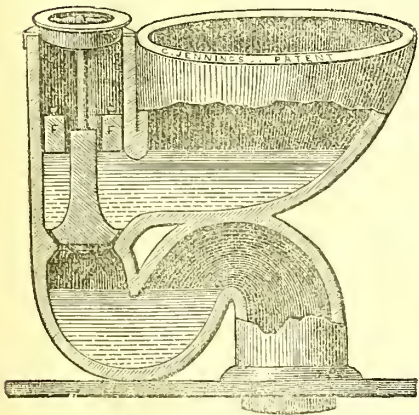


Fig. 2.  
Trapped Earthenware Closet.

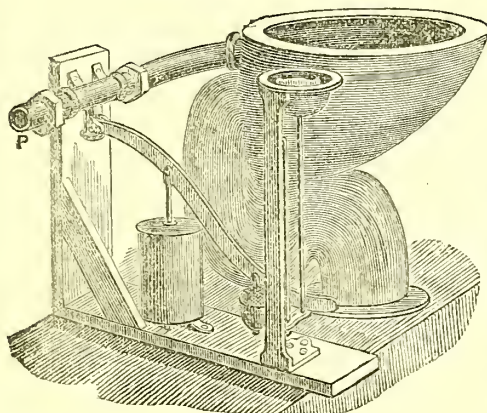
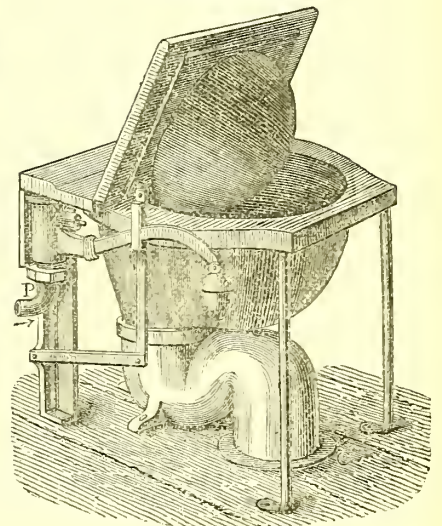


Fig. 3.  
Tip-up Closet.





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The number of lavatories and water-closets must vary with the proportion of the persons in a ward, who can leave their beds; but, in general, one of each should be provided for each large ward. The best kind of lavatory is that with a tip basin, as shown in the following woodcut:—

Hot and cold water should be abundant over the whole buildings; and the fixed baths should be sufficiently numerous to allow all inmates who can leave their beds to be washed weekly, or fortnightly.

4. In addition to the general dining-room, there should be a proportion of day rooms for the aged and such of the sick and lying-in cases as can leave their beds, in which they may both sit and take their meals. One, perhaps, for each set of four wards, in a workhouse constructed with a central corridor, would suffice.

5. Kitchens in which the food can be kept hot, or in which it may be cooked; and proper washing-up places should be provided on each floor, and in each detached building.

6. Open fire-places should be placed in the rooms, and hot-water pipes in the corridors.

7. As surgical cases, of the class from which hospital epidemics arise, are scarcely at all met with in workhouses, there is no reason, but that of an unwise economy, why the walls of the wards and corridors should not be drawn with mortar or cement, and coloured; and a cheerful paper may properly be placed upon the walls, in the aged and infirm wards, as is now the case in many lunacy wards.

8. The able-bodied, and the special class of sick before-mentioned, may be placed apart from the main building.

9. Proper provision should be made in the larger workhouses for a resident medical officer and chaplain.

10. No room in the basement should be used as a dormitory.

11. Suitable yard space and exercising ground should be more generally provided.

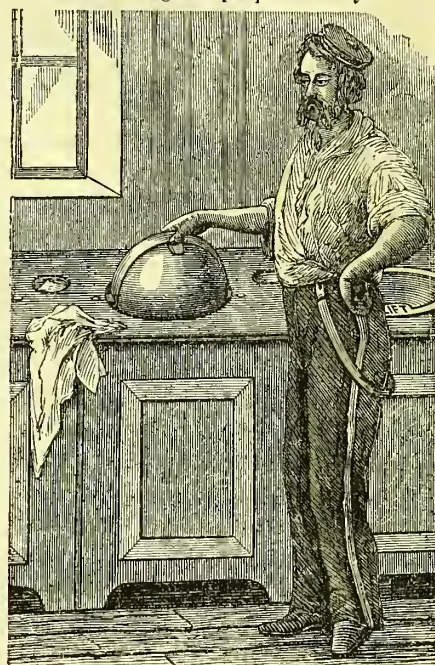
#### CUBICAL AND FLOOR SPACE.

The problem to be solved in connection with the cubical space to be allotted to each inmate, involves the question both of sufficiency and economy. There must be sufficient space for the healthful care of the inmates, and there must be no further expenditure of funds than will meet this requirement. These are general conditions, but there is, at present, a special legal restriction which has exercised a powerful control over the expenditure, viz., that no union can be empowered by the Poor Law Board to borrow funds beyond the average amount of the rates for the preceding three years. This, although permitting such very large sums as 50,000 *l.* and upwards to be expended upon some of the recently built London workhouses, as Shoreditch, Mile-end Old Town, and City of London, has demanded the exercise of the most watchful care to provide a workhouse of the size required, and although the Legislature might extend the borrowing powers of the guardians, the present expenditure has been felt to be oppressive in many unions and parishes, whether in London or the provinces.

Hence, whilst whatever is necessary must be provided, there should be no waste, and science and experience should be engaged in the task of making the best use of the space allowed.

The question of space is essentially connected with that of the renewal of the contained air. It is not satisfactory to say that because a felon has 900 cubic feet provided for him in a gaol, it is cruel that the workhouse poor should have only 500 cubic feet. If, in such an argument, bread were substituted for air, it would be very evident that the whole question of sufficiency would turn upon the frequency with which the supply was renewed, and not simply on that of the absolute quantity at command at one time.

Fig. 4.  
Jennings' Tip-up Lavatory.



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When



When a man is placed in any enclosed space, he deteriorates the air both by consuming a part of the oxygen, and by emitting from his body certain products which, when respired, are noxious in the degree of their concentration. It is possible to allow such a space that for hours or days the condition of the air would not be injurious to him, but at the best this plan only dilutes the poison; it does not remove it; and moreover if the man be confined to one part of the space, as by keeping his bed, and there be no continuous movement of the air, the deterioration of the air will proceed in a greater degree in the space around him than in the higher and further part of the room, and the more pure air will practically be unable to reach him.

Again, the chief product of respiration (carbonic acid) is specifically heavier than the atmosphere, and therefore does not so readily and generally mix with large volumes of the air around, as would be the case with a lighter gas. Hence, there is a tendency in it to accumulate around the producer; and although it may never really separate from the surrounding air (as in the Grotto del Cane, where a dog from its low stature inhales it and dies, whilst a man, from the greater elevation of his mouth, breathes the air over it, and lives), yet the gases are only mixed, not combined, and with quietude of the air the heavier must tend to descend and to accumulate near the lower part of the room. This would be the case at night with the doors shut, and the inmates in bed and asleep, so that in making a chemical analysis of the air of a bed-room it is usual to take one specimen near to the floor, another from about the level of the inmate, and a third from the higher part of the room, and each commonly yields different results.

Hence, there is practically a limit to the space which can be made useful by a man, and except much movement of the air be artificially produced, as for example, by persons walking about the room, he becomes surrounded by an atmosphere which differs from that of more distant parts. The diffusion which always takes place in a mixture of gases, is insufficient to overcome the effect of greater specific gravity when the heavier gas is being constantly produced, as in respiration, and when, as at night, it is insufficiently aided by artificial movement of the air within, or by the force of currents from without. The remark, therefore, of Dr. Angus Smith, that large space may mean only dilution of the poison, is appropriate and striking.

Now let us look at this question in its economical aspect.

I have shown that the tendency at night, and in many cases by day also, is to surround the inmate by an atmosphere more deteriorated than that which fills other parts of the room, and hence it follows that in the economical use of space, efforts should be made to remove this deteriorated atmosphere, and substitute fresh air. This cannot be effected by mere large cubical space, but it demands that a supply of fresh air shall be continually afforded, and the foul air removed. This is ventilation, and by it the poison is not left to be diluted, but is removed.

It is quite possible to have a large space containing diluted poison, and a small space with the poison altogether removed; and the problem to be solved is the smallest cubical space, and that amount of ventilation which would effect this, not only without annoyance to, but to the comfort of, the inmates—restriction of space, and freedom of ventilation.

Theoretically, the requirements of ventilation are two: 1st, that all the emanations from the lungs and skin of an inmate shall be entirely removed, and that he shall always be surrounded by a body of pure air; and 2d, that the heat which is produced by his body shall not be allowed to accumulate in the surrounding atmosphere to a degree greater than that which experience has shown to be conducive to comfort,—that is to say, about 60° or 62°,—or in other words, purity of air, and uniformity of temperature; and it has been found that in order to obtain any approach to these theoretical conditions, exceedingly large volumes of air at a given temperature (say 2,000 cubic feet per man per hour) must be supplied. The difficulty of this experiment has been abundantly proved in the very able hands of Dr. Percy, at the Houses of Parliament, and the want of satisfaction with the results is expressed by one Member stating that there is too much draught, by another that the air is too cold, and by a third that the air is close, and not sufficiently fresh.

But practically there is a degree of deterioration of the air of rooms which is known to be not injurious to health, and which is not offensive to the sense of smell, and it suffices for all practical purposes to effect this.



It has been already shown that mere cubical space cannot altogether effect it, but as it effects it much more certainly than a small space placed under similar conditions, it is, when expense is not an object, a rough and ready way of obtaining the result, and of partially putting aside, but not overcoming, a difficulty. The condition of the bed-rooms of the middle classes do not by any means approach theoretical perfection, but practically they are found to answer the two requirements of comfort and health, and it may be permitted to use this as a test of the salubrity of public rooms, or of rooms inhabited by several persons in common, and the requirements will then be that degree of deterioration of the air, and dilution of poisonous products, which will compare with those conditions in a fairly selected bed-room of the middle classes.

The former, the deterioration of the air, can be determined only by chemical research, but the latter is in its earliest manifestation, as well as in its progressive increase, detected by the sense of smell, and may be more accurately estimated by the chemist.

Such is an outline of the question which is now under discussion. It is not one to be settled by mere authority, by fixing upon some given space, by adducing in support the names of men distinguished on other subjects, and by constant reiteration of the same before the public by those who themselves only repeat the opinions of others, and do not attempt to add anything by their own authority.

In professional matters authority has now but little weight, and in scientific, and before scientific men, it has none. The only test admitted in science is that of fact,—of weight and measure.

If one assert that a given space is needful in workhouses, before his authority can be accepted it must be known that he had visited workhouses, and by practical observation had obtained the requisite proof; and if it be shown that he was never inside a workhouse, or being there, had not taken other steps to obtain proofs than could be taken by one of no authority before the world (if such proofs were needed), his assertions could have no special weight as a matter of authority, and at the most could only be of value as they repeated the opinions of other and better informed persons.

There can be no doubt that there has been the greatest indifference to these questions on the part of all classes, whether professional or otherwise. We have scarcely a public building, a church, chapel, concert room, theatre, prison cell or hospital ward, much less have we private buildings which are decently ventilated, and even now architects plan and builders erect buildings, almost or entirely without reference to the subject. Nay, experiments have only been instituted in reference to it within a few years, and even now those on the gigantic scale which are carried on at the Houses of Parliament are needed, and have not as yet settled the question. One cannot in the afternoon enter a prison cell, allowing 900 or 1,000 cubic feet of air to the inmate, and particularly if he have been engaged in labour in his cell, without perceiving the air to be offensive; nor the wards of an hospital at night without perceiving the absence of fresh air; nay, in reference to the latter it is asserted by surgeons of repute, that surgical cases never do as well in hospital wards as in private houses, and that pyæmia, hospital gangrene, and erysipelas result from the defective state of the wards. Even in reference to medical cases, it is not many years since nurses died of fever at Bartholomew's Hospital, and much more recently fever has been rife at Westminster Hospital, and puerperal fever has prevailed in the lying-in wards of many hospitals. These results, so far as they are remediable at all, can be obviated, not by enlarged space alone, but by better ventilation—by the removal of the poison,—and so far as I am acquainted with the state of public buildings of all kinds, I venture to affirm that there are workhouses in the country districts which in this respect far excel them all.

The Poor Law Board, in order to lay down a rule for the erection of workhouses and for the proper care and treatment of the inmates, some years ago discussed the question of cubic space at great length, and obtained the opinion of eminent scientific medical men, and the results of the observation of their inspectors and other officials.

In 1855 the question of the sufficiency of a minimum space of 300 cubic feet for each person in a dormitory, and of 500 cubic feet in a room used by day and night, was proposed to Dr. Todd, a gentleman who, although a physician of great eminence, was not only a practical physician, but a scientific man of a high order, and in the absence of conclusive scientific facts was, perhaps, the

most



most competent man of his day to give an opinion upon such a question. His opinion was in favour of these quantities, but he very properly added two conditions.

1. Having reference to the spread of typhus fever and cholera, and the comfort and decency of the inmates, he recommended that the beds should be placed not less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet apart.

2. He remarked, "It must be presumed that in fixing the minimum of cubic space already referred to, the Board have not lost sight of the necessity of providing ample resources for ventilation and suitable means of warming. The latter should be subsidiary to the former."

Hence, in his opinion, 300 cubic feet, and 500 cubic feet as a minimum, might be safely and properly allowed to each bed, provided there were such a distance between the beds that infection could not pass from one to the other, and provided there were ample resources for ventilation.

At a somewhat later period the subject was brought under the attention of another scientific physician of great eminence, Dr. Bence Jones, and he replied in an elaborate paper.

The first determines the amount of the deterioration of air by respiration, as ascertained by the experiments of Andral, and estimates how much air is requisite for each person in a given time, so that the amount of carbonic acid which it may contain shall not exceed 1 per cent.; and after citing the cubic space allowed to an inmate in various men-of-war, and in four hospitals, proceeds to show that the inquiry "is charged with the means of determining the ventilation of a room, and with the amount of ventilation which is required."

As to the amount which is requisite, he deduced from the amount of air which is required to reduce the carbonic acid in the respired air to 1 per cent., from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet per minute, or 60 to 90 cubic feet per hour. He then quotes other authorities, which give 10 cubic feet per minute (Reed); 20 cubic feet per minute (Arnott); 2 cubic feet per minute by night only (Leblanc); and states that in the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, each member had  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet per minute in summer, and 6.0 cubic feet per minute in winter.

Hence, he does not state the cubical space which should be allowed to each person in a workhouse, but shows that the above question resolves itself into that of ventilation.

Since that period several scientific men of eminence, and particularly on the Continent, have considered the question, but their inquiries have been based almost exclusively upon the plan of attempting to remove all the emanations from the body, and to maintain uniformity of temperature.

The only mode by which, in my opinion, the question can be satisfactorily settled, is to ascertain the amount of the excretory products, and of the oxygen in the air in well ventilated rooms which allow 500 cubic feet to each inmate, and if it should be shown that they are not only compatible with health, but that the former is not greater and the latter not less than are found in private dwellings affording much greater space, to fix the amount, and take steps to prevent an increase of the former and decrease of the latter.

Dr. Angus Smith, F.R.S., and Professor Roscoe, F.R.S., both of Manchester, have engaged more largely in this inquiry than any other persons of late years, and in the year 1864 I carried on investigations of the same class in the printing offices of London, by direction of the Privy Council. The whole of these researches have been directed to show the amount of oxygen and carbonic acid (and some of them of nitrogen also) in the open air in various localities, and in certain enclosed spaces, as workshops, theatres, hospitals, railway offices, railway carriages, and mines.

As it was not possible with my existing engagements to pursue these inquiries in workhouses for the purposes of this report, I obtained the assent of the President of the Poor Law Board to the employment of Dr. Angus Smith, and to him we are indebted for some very valuable results. The question to be solved was not the actual condition of the atmosphere in the several wards of London workhouses, however interesting such results might have been in a scientific point of view; neither the conditions of the air in rooms of much larger dimensions, and occupied by other classes of persons, nor in rooms of

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ties of the carbonic acid, but all the arrangements were carried out with the fairness and precision required in minute scientific research. It was also one of great extent, involving more than 100 analyses, and of no little personal labour at the time of the inquiry, since it was requisite that the gentlemen should sit up during the whole of four consecutive nights.

The results are contained in the following Table :

TABLE No. 9.

SHOWING the Amount of CARBONIC ACID and OXYGEN in the Air of well-ventilated WORKHOUSE WARDS having 500 Cubic Feet to each Inmate.

WORKHOUSE.	DAY.			MIDNIGHT.						MORNING.					
	Carbonic Acid.		Oxygen.	Carbonic Acid.		Oxygen.				Carbonic Acid.		Oxygen.			
	Reduced.	Un-reduced.	2.	Reduced.	Un-reduced.	1.	2.	3.	Mean.	Reduced.	Un-reduced.	1.	2.	3.	Mean.
May 17th and 18th. AMBETH :															
Ward No. 5 - -	0·0468	0·0437	20·90	0·0712	0·0682	20·88	20·88	20·87	20·876	0·0756	0·0722	20·89	20·87	20·85	20·87
„ 23 - -	0·0755	0·0702	20·83	0·1044	0·0987	20·89	20·84	20·83	20·853	0·0866	0·0824	20·87	20·86	20·85	20·86
Means - - -	0·0611	0·0569	20·89	0·0878	0·0845	-	-	-	20·864	0·0811	0·0834	-	-	-	20·86
May 18th and 19th. LUKE'S (Chelsea) :															
Ward No. 73A -	0·0614	0·0580	20·88	0·0828	0·0784	20·88	20·87	20·84	20·863	0·0983	0·0926	20·85	20·85	20·83	20·843
„ 68 - -	0·0443	0·0417	20·93	0·0524	0·0498	20·90	20·91	20·88	20·896	0·0697	0·0661	20·90	20·89	20·87	20·886
„ 12 - -	0·0572	0·0539	20·90	0·0715	0·0682	20·87	20·88	20·86	20·870	0·0739	0·0702	20·88	20·86	20·84	20·860
Means - - -	0·0543	0·0512	20·9033	0·0689	0·0654	-	-	-	20·8763	0·0806	0·0763	-	-	-	20·863
May 19th and 20th. AST LONDON (Homer- ton) :															
Ward No. 13 - -	0·0641	0·0610	20·90	0·0815	0·0773	20·88	20·88	20·87	20·872	0·0856	0·0814	20·89	20·88	20·87	20·88
„ 8 - -	0·0472	0·0448	20·91	0·0708	0·0692	20·88	20·89	20·89	20·886	0·0705	0·0672	20·89	20·90	20·88	20·89
„ 10 - -	0·0472	0·0448	20·94	0·0771	0·0733	20·90	20·88	20·88	20·8866	0·0621	0·0590	20·90	20·90	20·87	20·89
Means - - -	0·0528	0·0502	20·9166	0·0764	0·0732	-	-	-	20·88326	0·0727	0·0692	-	-	-	20·8866
TOTAL MEANS -	0·0560	0·0531	20·9033	0·0777	0·0743	-	-	-	20·875	0·0781	0·0766	-	-	-	20·869

The quantity of carbonic acid by day in one of the rooms at each of the workhouses was greater, and the quantity of oxygen less, than in the other rooms, and shows that the arrangements for ventilation were not equally good in all.

The least and greatest amounts thus obtained by day were—

		Per Cent.			Per Cent.
Carbonic Acid -	Minimum -	0·0443	Oxygen -	Minimum -	20·88
„	Maximum -	0·0755	„	Maximum -	20·93

And the mean of all the experiments gave—

		Per Cent.			Per Cent.
Carbonic Acid -	- - -	0·0560	Oxygen -	- - -	20·9033

The quantities at about midnight were—

		Per Cent.			Per Cent.
Carbonic Acid -	Minimum -	0·0524	Oxygen -	Minimum -	20·853
„	Maximum -	0·1044	„	Maximum -	20·866

And the means of all were—

		Per Cent.			Per Cent.
Carbonic Acid -	- - -	0·0777	Oxygen -	- - -	20·875

The quantities at about 5 a. m. were—

		Per Cent.			Per Cent.
Carbonic Acid -	Minimum -	0·0621	Oxygen -	Minimum -	20·843
„	Maximum -	0·0866	„	Maximum -	20·89

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And the mean of all was—

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
Carbonic Acid - - - -	0·0781	Oxygen - - - -	20·869

After writing the above I visited the workhouses and ascertained that the ventilation was not so good in wards 23 Lambeth, and 23A and 12 Chelsea, as in the others.

As the object of the inquiry was to show the composition of the air in well-ventilated rooms, it would be more correct for me to refer to the results in the wards which were the best ventilated, but as all were tolerably ventilated, I have included the results, and will now place the mean of the whole with the minimum of carbonic acid, and the maximum of oxygen side by side.

TABLE, No. 10.

CARBONIC ACID.				OXYGEN.		
	Day.	About Midnight.	About 5 A. M.	Day.	About Midnight.	About 5 A. M.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Means - - -	0·0568	0·0780	0·0802	20·893	20·875	20·869
Minimum - - -	0 0443	0·0524	0·0621	—	—	—
Maximum - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	20·93	20·886	20·89

When, however, the four wards are selected which were the best ventilated, the means are as follows :—

TABLE, No. 11.

Showing the Composition of the Air in the best Ventilated Wards.

	DAY.		MIDNIGHT.		MORNING.	
	Carbonic Acid.	Oxygen.	Carbonic Acid.	Oxygen.	Carbonic Acid.	Oxygen.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Lambeth :						
No. 5 - - -	0·0468	20·90	0·0712	20·876	0·0756	20·87
Chelsea :						
No. 68 - - -	0·0443	20·93	0·0524	20·896	0·0697	20·886
Homerton :						
No. 8 - - -	0·0472	20·91	0·0703	20·886	0 0705	20·89
No. 10 - - -	0·0472	20·94	0·0771	20·8866	0·0621	20·89
Means - - -	0·0463	20·92	0·0677	20·886	0·694	20·884

Such being the results obtained in this inquiry, and such the condition of the air which in the several close and open localities may be always obtained in properly ventilated rooms affording 500 cubic feet to each inmate, I proceed to show how their value may be properly estimated.

The amount of carbonic acid in the open air has been found as follows :

Carbonic acid	0·049	in the plains of Switzerland (De Saussure).
	0·0557	at elevation of 877 metres, in Switzerland.
	0·033	} (Lewy) at sea.
	0·055	
	0·0392	} (Roscoe) Manchester, country around.
	0·0402	
Mean - -	0·0369	(Angus Smith) near Manchester.
	0·0403	in Manchester.
	0·067	in fogs.
	0·0374	London Bridge.
	0·0334	Hyde Park.
	0·0413	Newgate, and New Cut, Lambeth.
	0·0428	Small-alley, Smithfield.



In Buildings in London (Angus Smith and Bernays).

0·193	7 ft.	from floor	} In Chancery Court, with doors shut.
0·203	3	" "	
0·0507	4	" "	
			" " with doors wide open.

0.111 10 p.m. } Surrey Theatre.  
0.218 12 ,, }

0.0817 } Olympic.  
0.1014 }

0·126 Victoria.

0·757 Haymarket.

0.252 (pit) City of London.

0.320 „ Standard Theatre.

0.040 3½ p.m., Queen's Ward, St. Thomas's Hospital.

0.052 3½ p.m., Edward's Ward, St. Thomas's Hospital.

0.32

0.38

0.43

0.27

0.30

0.29,

Rooms in the hospital at Madrid.

## OXYGEN.

Mean . . . 21.05 } On mountains, De Saussure and Humboldt.

21.00 } On mountains, De Saussure  
- - 20.988 Regnault, in many cities.

Lowest - - 20·840 } Bunsen, at Heidelberg.

Highest - 20.924 } Dunsen, at Hendersburg.

20.784 Geneva, Marignac.

20.757 Bern, Brunner.

20.773 Faulhorn.

20.802 Grands Mulôts

20·894	Chamounix	-	-	Frankland.
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20.963 Summit of Mont Blanc

Average - - 20 947 } Wet weather, Manchester, Angus Smith.

20.49 } Hospitals at Madrid. De Luna.  
20.65 }

20.65 }  
20.83 } In dwelling houses. Angus Smith.  
20.80 }

20.652. In place closely surrounded

20.77. In large cavities - - - - - "

20.64. In large currents	-	-	-	20.64
20.65. In currents	-	-	-	20.65

20.14. In sums	-	-	-	”
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	18.5.	When candles go out	-	"
Lowest	-	18.27.	-	"

The following Table shows the composition of the air in three private bedrooms, as ascertained by Dr. Angus Smith, at about 6 or 7 a.m., before the windows had been opened or the occupants had left them.

TABLE, No. 12.

CARBONIC ACID and OXYGEN in the Air of Three Bedrooms of a Private House ;  
One Person in each.

Room.	—	Carbonic Acid.		Oxygen.	Capacity of Room in Cubic Feet.
		Reduced.	Unreduced.		
1 - - - {	1st day* -	0·0606	0·0570	20·90	1,221
	2d „ -	0·0519	0·0478		
2 - - - {	1st day -	0·0626	0·0590	20·89	2,079
	2d „ -	0·0670	0·0621		
3 - - - {	1st day -	0·0560	0·0529	20·89	2,042
	2d „ -	0·0738	0·0682		
Means - -	- -	0·0619	0·0578	—	—

Hence it appears that the quantity of carbonic acid in the air of open spaces in London during the daytime varies from 0·0334 per cent. in Hyde Park to 0·0428

\* The two averages for each room were on different days.

### Cubical and Floor Space.

0·0428 per cent. at Smithfield. In the wards at St. Thomas's, 0·046; in the law courts, from 0·0507 to 0·203; in the theatres, from 0·0817 to 0·320; and in the hospitals at Madrid, from 0·27 to 0·43 per cent.

But in the workhouse wards in question it was, on the average, 0·0463, and at the minimum, 0·0443 per cent., a quantity scarcely exceeding that in the open air, and equal to that in the wards of St. Thomas's. This is the quantity which is found during nearly 18 of the 24 hours daily.

There are no experiments with which to compare the night experiments now made for the Poor Law Board; but as the highest mean, viz., at 5 a.m., was only 0·0694, and the lowest amount at that time 0·0621, they are highly satisfactory, and show that no accumulation occurred as the night advanced. In some of the places above cited, the deterioration of the air was from five to six times as great; and the special inquiry made by Dr. Angus Smith into the composition of the air in private bed-rooms at 7 a.m., shows that the air in the well-ventilated wards, with 500 cubic feet to each inmate, was as pure as in private bed-rooms with three or four times that space. The persons who have investigated this subject the most extensively have found a perceptible difference in the smell of the air of a room when the diminution in the amount of carbonic acid (not from the carbonic acid, however) amounted to from 0·05 to 0·10, and hence it has been assumed that those amounts should not be exceeded.

The quantity of oxygen which is naturally present in the open air, has been variously stated by the observers, which have been quoted on the preceding page, but the usual limits are between 20·9 and 21· per cent. The experiments which we have now recorded show that within workhouses it need not be less than 20·88 per cent. at any period of the night, and 20·90 or upwards by day. These are perfectly within the limits of the utmost degree of health, and are far greater than those found in most dwelling-houses.

The quantity of carbonic oxide and sulphuretted hydrogen which are eliminated by the skin and lungs, have been shown by the recent experiments of Pettenkofer to be almost infinitely small with proper ventilation, as have also the experiments of Dr. Angus Smith and myself, on the nitrogenous products; and with the ventilation arranged so that the carbonic acid will be reduced to the quantity which I have above stated, they need not be regarded in the least. So in like manner the importance of the presumed ferments upon which the transmission of infectious diseases is supposed to depend, rests doubtless upon their detention or removal by ventilation. Their existence, however, has not hitherto been discovered by any method of research, and with the plans now proposed they need not be specially considered.

I have thought it right to enter thus fully into the question, on account of the attention which has been drawn to the subject, but in truth it was scarcely needful, since the conditions under which the space was allowed by the Poor Law Board and their adviser, Dr. Todd, have not been properly under discussion. The question is not, and was not, whether 500 cubic feet of space in ill-ventilated wards was sufficient, but whether the same was sufficient in well-ventilated wards. We may also go further, and state, that the question has not been whether 500 cubic feet is enough, but whether the much smaller space which is allowed in most of the workhouses is enough. The regulations of the Poor Law Board have been very generally broken, and it has not been shown that the quantity and conditions of space long ago decided upon are insufficient.

After the proof above cited, it would be a work of supererogation to refer to the less certain results of personal and common observation, but I may add that it is my practice when staying the night near a workhouse in my district to visit the workhouse with the medical officer at 10 or 11 o'clock, and it has rarely occurred to me to perceive anything offensive.

Neither would it avail to recite the results obtained by the Royal Commission on the Sanitary State of the Army, nor those of the Barrack and Hospital Improvement Committee, consisting of the Right Honourable Sidney Herbert, M.P., Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Burrell, and Captain Douglas Galton, R.E., of whom Dr. Sutherland must be regarded as the chief sanitary authority, since their observations were not founded upon scientific research, nor upon conditions applicable to workhouses; neither would it be possible, if it were at all fitting, without State funds to build workhouses at the enormous cost per inmate of the Netley Hospital.



It was hoped that some additional knowledge might have been gained from the personal experience of the medical officers of workhouses; but on inquiry we found that deaths after childbirth and puerperal fever were almost unknown, and as neither typhus fever nor any other defined disease depending upon deficient space had scarcely ever arisen in those institutions, they had had but little to guide them in forming a judgment from their own observation, and they could but repeat to us the information which they had derived from others. In some instances we noted their recommendations as to space, viz., 600 cubic feet at Bermondsey, 700 cubic feet with the bad ventilation at Greenwich, and 500 to 750 cubic feet at the Strand. A return upon this and other questions was subsequently obtained from them, which showed that in nearly one-half there was a common agreement as to space, which was identical with that recommended at a meeting which had been held by some of them; and hence it was highly probable that the return was less the result of their own observation (the only result which was of value) than of the opinion of others; and this was further supported by the different statements made by the medical officers of the Strand and Bermondsey Unions, who extended their recommendations in their returns to 1,000 cubic feet.

This question is also essentially connected with floor space, both on the ground mentioned by Dr. Tedd, and on that of height of the wards. There should be a space of at least three feet between the beds, and there should be 500 cubic feet of space to each bed, and both requirements have been disregarded. In some workhouses, as at St. George-the-Martyr, some of the beds were placed close together in pairs, and with few exceptions, as at St. George's, Hanover-square, the space allowed between the beds was less than three feet.

Under these circumstances the requisite cubical space can be found only when the wards are very high and very wide. In reference to height it has been already stated that there is a limit beyond which height of room is neither economical nor necessary, for the greater part of the respiratory acts take place within the lower four or five feet, and a volume of air, which is far removed must be much less useful in diluting the more highly charged air than an intermediate one.

Moreover, when the roof is very lofty, and the windows remain closed, or do not reach to or near the ceiling, the interchange of the higher stratum of air is incomparably less than that on the level of the doors. In addition to all this, a very lofty room is more unequal in temperature in the winter season than a lower one.

Hence there is practically an economical limit to the cubical space in the direction of height, so that a moderate space of, say 500 cubic feet, is far less useful in a room 14 feet high than in one 10 feet high; and it follows that if the great height exist, a larger cubical space must be allowed.

The more useful cubical space for an inmate is six feet wide, including the bed, by 10 to 12 feet in height; and when a ward is 18 or 20 feet in width, those dimensions will provide 54 to 60 superficial feet, and 540 to 720 cubic feet.

I therefore advise, for ordinary wards,—

1. That no ward be occupied by day and night which does not provide 500 cubic feet of space to each person.
2. That the floor space be 54 to 60 feet, and six feet across the bed.
3. That the height be from 10 to 12 feet.

As many wards are very wide (even 30 feet), the above-mentioned quantities will yield much more than the cubical space required; but, except under special circumstances, a third or fourth row of beds should not be allowed.

There are, however, a much larger proportion of wards which are narrow, and where, probably, a greater width across the bed will be required to provide the proper cubical space, and a few, as at Hackney, where the head of one row of beds and the sides of another must be placed against the walls, or such wards must be used only by day.

In each sick ward, where nearly all the patients remain in bed, the larger dimensions may be required, viz., 6 feet by 10 feet by 10 to 12 feet.

As fever and small-pox cases are not admitted into the workhouses, I need not make any recommendations respecting the larger space which might be required for them. The same remark is almost as generally true in reference to surgical cases, as fractures, &c., which tend to produce hospital gangrene or erysipelas, since the instances are very rare where any provision is required for them in workhouses.



## BEDDING AND FURNITURE.

Part II.  
GENERAL  
REVIEW AND  
SUGGESTIONS.

*Bedding and  
Furniture.*  
Beds

The essential requirements in a bed are cleanliness and comfort, and these ends may be attained by several kinds of material; as, for example, flock, coir, cut straw, chaff, hair, and feathers.

There is great diversity of opinion among the masters of workhouses as to the best material for beds; but usually each prefers the kind in use in his own workhouse, and of which he has had full experience. I have beds of all these materials in use in my own district, and, practically, all may be equally good.

Whatever may be the material, it is essential that the bed be re-made from time to time, and that a sufficient quantity of material be used for the purpose.

It is remarkable that in country places where the beds are made chiefly of oat-straw, or of cut wheat straw, and where the material is grown, they are frequently the thinnest and the least satisfactory. This is due to the fact that the straw is not equally obtainable at all times; and the beds require re-filling frequently, the persons in charge become careless, and too little straw is used. Hence, a material which when once obtained is permanently retained, is perhaps the more generally useful, and coir, feathers, flock, or hair are to be preferred.

It is also too commonly found that a material which required to be frequently picked is often left unpicked, so that the beds become much less comfortable, and this is particularly the case with coir and flock; and in that sense hair and feathers are to be preferred.

It has already been stated that flock is in almost universal use in the metropolitan workhouses, and also that very generally there is not an efficient system of re-picking it, and of renewing the beds; but if this defect were removed, I think it may be used with perfect propriety.

Coir requires much more frequent picking than flock, but when it is kept in good order, as at Ely, it is at least equal to it in comfort; and it has the further advantage, that if it become wet, it may be washed and dried, and rendered perfectly clean, whilst the cleansing process in flock is far more difficult, and less effectual. Hence I am of opinion that no change is required in the material of which the beds generally are composed; but, coir, and not flock, should be supplied to dirty cases. It is, however, essential that the best quality be always selected, that a teasing machine be obtained, that some of the old men be constantly employed in picking the flock and coir, that a number of spare beds be always on hand and in good order, and that the beds throughout the house be re-picked in regular rotation, and as frequently as once in three months for flock, and two months for coir.

Mattresses of hair or common wool, and even of coir fastened down in the usual way, may, in like manner, be comfortable beds; but our inspection has shown that their actual condition is far less favourable to comfort than beds. It is true that this is not a necessary result, provided such excellent hair mattresses be used as are now made and used in the Chelsea workhouse, and provided that they be re-made whenever they become thin at the middle. It is evident that the pressure upon the various parts of the mattress is very unequal, and that the greatest amount occurs over a small area at the centre; so that, whilst the mattress at the edges may feel thick and elastic, the part subjected to pressure may have become thin and inelastic, and offer little protection to the inmate. This evil is far less likely to occur with a bed, for the tick not being bound down, the flock may be removed to any part of it, and the bed be kept at all times in equally good order.

Moreover, some skill is required in making and re-making a mattress; and it is not always, nor perhaps usually, obtainable in workhouses. The acquirement of the skill is, however, not difficult; and if the master, as at Chelsea, give his attention to it, he may train certain of the inmates to acquire it.

The use of mattresses is no doubt attended with less trouble than that of beds, since they do not require to be pulled about daily; but unless a number of spare mattresses are kept in stock, and proper means be taken for the renewal of those in use, I do not think that their general introduction will add to the comfort of the inmates. This, however, as in the selection of the materials for beds, is less a question of material and manufacture than of care; and it is possible to make good mattresses, and to keep them always in good order.

Pillows should always be provided; and, as far as possible, they should be of feathers



feathers or hair for the sick and the aged. The former, unless of good quality, and occasionally cleaned, become lumpy, and by constant use acquire a disagreeable odour. The latter are cooler and sweeter; but unless the hair be occasionally re-picked it will lose its elasticity; and if it be too full or insufficiently full it will be inconvenient.

The bedsteads should in all cases be made of iron, and have a sacking bottom, or laths which are elastic and not too wide apart; and care should be taken to tighten the bottom whenever it tends to become hollow. In some cases a canopy, made of an iron frame, as very recently introduced at Stepney, would add to the comfort of those inmates who lie under a window, and especially on the sunny side of the ward; but care must be taken lest ventilation should be impeded. The bedsteads should have a rack by which the upper part may be elevated by a winch.

The size should be 6 ft. 3 in. by 2 ft. 8 in.; and for the lying-in wards, and for women with children the breadth should be 3 ft. to 3 ft. 6 in.

Curtains and canopies should be supplied in the lying-in ward; and a foot valance in other wards, if kept clean, would add to the appearance of comfort in the ward.

With bedsteads having bottoms of iron or wood there should be always a mattress, consisting either of a single layer of cocoa-fibre matting, or a thin mattress of flock, coir, or straw, made in the usual way.

The rugs should be woollen, and with bright and lively colours. Three blankets and three sheets, besides an under blanket and sheet, and spare sheets, should be provided for each bed. The present faded and ill-looking cotton rugs should be dispensed with as quickly as possible.

The following articles of furniture and clothing should be supplied to each sick and infirm ward:

1. One or two dressers, with cupboard doors, and shelves over.
2. One or more cupboards, in which to place the inmates' clothes and other articles.
3. A locker between each two beds, containing four shelves. Doors are objected to, because they are apt to hide dirt and untidiness; but a curtain to draw might be allowed.
4. An arm-chair alternately with the lockers, a proportion having cushions also.
5. Night chairs, with backs and arms; and the sealed ones manufactured by Jennings, and figured in the following cut (*Fig. 5*) should be preferred.
6. Benches, with backs properly reclined, and cushions.
7. Tables of proper length and width.
8. One or two sets of book-shelves.
9. One or more hanging looking glasses in the wards and lavatories.
10. A woollen cape or shawl, and a pair of slippers to each inmate; and two or more woollen gowns to each ward, for night use.
11. One shirt or chemise (more when needed), pocket handkerchief, pair of stockings and towel, to be supplied weekly to each inmate. The towels should have a loop, and be hung from a hook placed in the sides of the lockers.
12. One comb and brush, and piece of soap, to each inmate.
13. A Bible or Testament, of good type, to each inmate, placed in his locker, or within reach when lying in bed.

14. Entertaining

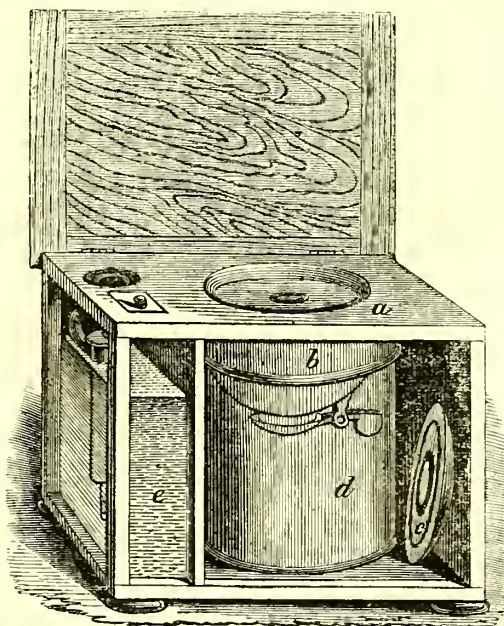
*Bedding and Furniture.*

Bedstead.

*Furniture and Effects.*

*Fig. 5.*

PORTABLE SEALED NIGHT-STOOL.



(a) The seat.

(b and d) The sealed closet\*.

(e) Cistern.

\* This may be more economically purchased separately, and used with a chair.



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*Furniture and  
Effects.*

14. Entertaining, illustrated, and religious periodicals, tracts, books, and two or more sets of such games as draughts, chess, and dominoes. The periodicals, books, and tracts should be circulated through each ward, once or twice a week, on a well-arranged plan, so that some shall be in each ward at all times. Toys and games for the children.

15. Spectacles, of proper sights, to such as need them.

16. Articles for sewing, or other kinds of employment, for all who can perform it.

17. Prints, and particularly coloured ones, upon the walls.

18. Cocoa fibre, or other kinds of matting, laid along each ward, and between each of the women's beds.

19. Bed-trays which fasten to the bedstead, and tray covers, to such inmates as take their food in bed. Covers of white linen should be placed upon the tables in the wards.

20. Pottery wash-hand basins for use in the wards, and metal ones, enamelled on the inside, for the lavatories, with roller towels and rollers, should be supplied in sufficient numbers, and replaced as occasion may require.

21. Pottery plates, mugs, and basins should be used for food.

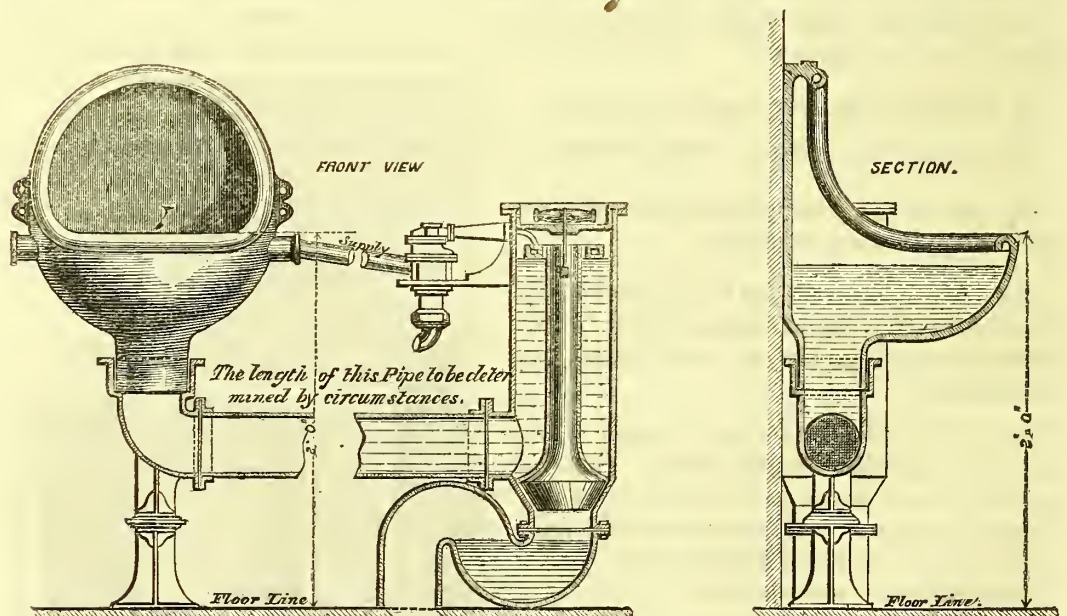
22. A knife, fork, and spoon, for each person.

23. Waste paper regularly supplied, and placed in the water-closet.

24. A urinal to each bed, and proper separate cloths to be kept for them and the night-pans. It is the practice in barracks to fix a night urinal which holds much water, and which is at the same time a slop closet or a water shoot, in such a position that it may be readily used. This might be effected in workhouses, and the offensive character of the chamber-pots and the evaporation of the urine be in part prevented. They might be fixed in the water-closet, or in the corner of the ward, or on the corridor. The following wood-cuts show the apparatus prepared by Mr. Jennings, and which does not permit any offensive odour to escape :—

*Fig. 6.*

NIGHT URINAL AND SLOP CLOSET.



25. Foot-pans in sufficient number to enable the inmates to wash their feet weekly. Also, hip-baths and slipper-baths in sufficient numbers for each division of the workhouse.

26. Feet and chest warmers of tin and pottery; and spitting-pots are required.

27. Pot urinals, for both sexes, to be used in bed.

28. Water



28. Water beds, air and water cushions, waterproof sheeting, and mackintosh urinals for men. Each lying-in bed should have waterproof sheeting for the first 10 days. Waterproof sheets, with a funnel to pass through the bed into a chamber vessel underneath, should be used for all dirty and wet cases.

29. Several rocking-chairs for the lying-in room and nursery, and little ones for the use of children. *Furniture and Effects.*

30. Screens for doors, and also for dying cases, or others needing privacy, should be supplied. Except for the first-mentioned purpose, they should not be more than 4 or 4½ feet high. Simple frames to be covered with sheets are sufficient.

31. Flannel shirts for the aged.

32. Graduated medicine glasses, and also drinking vessels with spouts.

33. Cupboards on the corridors, or in the lavatories, in which to place the buckets and larger utensils.

34. Bath chairs are required for the use of the very aged and infirm in the yards; and lifts should be provided wherever there is a steam-engine, by which such inmates could be readily taken up and down stairs.

More easy and suitable carriages for the conveyance of the sick and infectious cases to the workhouse are urgently needed. Some manufacturer should devise them, and bring them to the notice of the different Boards of Guardians. Probably an ambulance carriage would suffice.

35. Bells communicating with the master's rooms should be placed in every ward; and, except in special cases, the doors of the sick wards should not be locked at night.

#### VENTILATION AND WARMTH.

I have largely entered into this subject in the special reports upon each workhouse, and in this general report, and have pointed out in detail the existing defects and the remedies.\* It will therefore only be necessary here to refer to some general principles, and to point out such regulations as have a general application. *Ventilation and Warmth.*

As this is a subject which is only imperfectly understood by officials and others, it is essential that the modes of application be as simple as possible, and requiring, or even admitting of, little or no interference; and as it is also one on which each person forms his own opinion as to details, it is advisable that all modes be allowed which meet the requirements of the case, and that as little change as possible be made in the system actually in existence. It will be found that many different modes are nearly equally effectual, and will only require to be modified and extended.

This essential condition must, however, be supreme, viz., that with the cubic space properly preserved, the amount of ventilation shall be such as to prevent the air becoming disagreeable by night or day, and shall not allow a greater amount of carbonic acid in the air than 0·045 per cent. by day, and from 0·05 to 0·07 per cent. by night.

In proceeding to consider this subject I shall not refer to open fire-places, because they now exist universally.

There are three leading principles to be borne in mind in effecting proper ventilation; viz., that the ventilation must be quite independent of windows, be effected by the simplest means by the introduction of the outer air, and be beyond the control of the inmates and nurses.

That it must be independent of windows may be inferred from the facts, that during the night in all seasons, and during a large part of the day in cold and wet weather, the windows cannot be opened with propriety, and hence, with windows

\* An account of all the plans for ventilation in use in the London printing offices may be found in my Report on the sanitary state of those ill-ventilated places, which was published in the Sixth Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council.

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*Ventilation and  
Warmth.*

windows alone, there will then be little or no ventilation, when it is the most needed. When the windows have been closed through the night the temperature has been raised; and when they are thrown open widely in the early morning, as is usually required, the large volumes of cold air which are then admitted must be distressing, if not injurious, to the inmates. We found this in our visits, and lamented that so little intelligence was shown by the nurses in reference to it.

The windows should, however, be double hung, so that they may be opened on fitting occasions, when and where the inmates will not suffer, and they should reach to within one foot of the ceiling.

The modes by which the outer air may be admitted are very various, and many of them equally effectual. The following conditions are, however, requisite, viz.:—

*Ventilation.*

1. That too large a volume of air shall not be admitted in one place. This may be effected by having small ventilators in many places, and dividing the current by perforated zinc of moderate fineness.

2. That the current shall not be felt injuriously or uncomfortably by the inmates. Hence the ventilators must be near the ceiling, or near the floor.

3. That there shall be sufficient ventilators. As ventilation by this method is much influenced by the movement of the atmosphere, it must vary with the openness or otherwise of the locality, and the direction of the wind. Hence each ward must be considered separately, and the number of ventilators be determined by observation, and no better illustration can be cited than the improvements which have been effected in some of the wards at Chelsea Workhouse since our visit.

4. There are at present many modes of ventilation in use, and the proper course will be to extend them, and to modify them to meet the above mentioned requirements. Few, however, are so simple as, and none more generally in use than, the iron air-brick, which may be multiplied indefinitely, and, if needful, covered on the inner or outer side with perforated zinc. One to each four or six feet of wall line will usually be necessary, both above and below.

In all such cases shutters should be removed, and the ventilators opened and modified as above mentioned.

5. The insertion of a piece of perforated metal into the top of the upper sash, or at the top of the sash frame, and the window fastened open to the extent of two inches is equally simple, effectual, and inexpensive, as are also panes of perforated glass in the windows.

But there are rooms in which it is impossible to apply these ventilators, or at least where the number of such would be ineffectual; and in reference to such, as well as to other circumstances connected with the subject, I remark as follows:—

1. When partition walls exist, and the classification permits, window openings should be made in them, in number equal to the outer windows, and either left open or have windows inserted, which should be plugged open to the extent of one inch or more.

2. Similar windows or openings should exist over the doors leading from the staircases and corridors, or from other rooms, and they should be plugged open.

3. Great care should be taken to well ventilate the water-closets, sinks, and lavatories, so that the foul air may not be concentrated. It is most desirable that these offices should not be so placed that their ventilation must be effected from the wards; but when this does exist, it is yet far better to allow a very free current of air to pass through them from the wards than to allow the foulness in the air to become concentrated, and to be then inspired by those who use them.

4. The corridors should be the great ventilators of the buildings, and should themselves be well ventilated by direct communication with the outer air, and be in connection with the wards, as already pointed out. When they are used as day-rooms this will, perhaps, be less perfectly effected.

5. When air-shafts are employed which terminate in the roof, it will usually be needful to have a jet of gas always burning within them.

6. Tubes



6. Tubes which are placed over a gas jet, and run to the chimney flue, or to the outer air, should be sufficiently large, say  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter; and, when used essentially as ventilators, should have the gas always burning. The best apparatus of this class is that prepared by Messrs. Benham, as shown in the woodcut. (Fig. 7.)

7. All sinks and open pipes should be trapped, and the trap soldered on to the pipe.

8. There are limits of height of rooms which control ventilation. Thus, a room of less than nine feet in height can scarcely have air-bricks placed high enough above the beds to prevent the entering current of air being felt by the inmate lying underneath it; and it will at all times be difficult to perfectly ventilate rooms of eight feet, or perhaps nine feet in height.

When the rooms are very lofty, and the ventilators are placed at the top, a strong current will be required to remove the carbonic acid, which is produced at three to four feet from the floor. This is particularly found in some of the upper wards in workhouses which are built in the roof, and where the windows are placed much below the highest part of the room.

Hence the most economical size of rooms for ventilation, as for the use of cubic space, is that of 10 to 12 feet in height.

With both low and lofty rooms, the system of admitting the outer air both into the ceiling and in the floors is very suitable; and it would only remain to find the amount which could be borne without inconvenience to the inmates, and which would prevent too great an increase of temperature in the low and deficient heat in the high rooms. When the force of the current is too great, it would be better to break it on the outside by perforated zinc, than to diminish the size or number of the ventilators, or to close them on the inside.

9. As hot water tanks are now introduced into several parts of workhouses, they might be made conducive to ventilation, if properly placed in shafts.

10. The ventilation of upper corridors should be always by louvre lights, and the skylights in every part of the building should be opened and used as ventilators.

The subject of warming the ward is essentially connected with that of ventilation, for the inmates being aged need warmth as well as pure air. There are defects in the present system of supplying heat which will be increased with improved ventilation, and attention to the two must go *pari passu*.

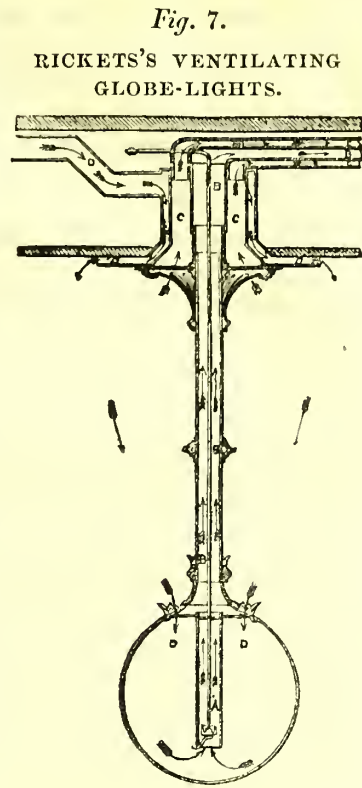
When there is only one fire-grate in a ward, or in very long wards where there are two, there are some inmates who are placed almost out of reach of their influence, and other methods of warming should be devised.

Hot-water pipes are placed both in the corridors and along the side of the wards at Whitechapel, &c., and steam-pipes are similarly employed at other workhouses; but this method of heating is not by any means general. I do not doubt that hot water is better for this purpose than steam, since an approach to uniformity of temperature may be the more readily maintained; and with the necessity for the supply of hot water to all parts of the workhouse, this may be economically effected.

The proper course is to warm the air in the corridors, so that by ventilation the warm air may pass into the wards. If that should not suffice, the pipes should be carried underneath the floor at the centre of each ward, and be connected with the floor ventilators. When they are placed above the floor and on one side only of the ward, the heat is distributed less uniformly; and, as I found when making a special inspection of the sanitary condition of printing offices for the Government, whilst some complained of the cold, others complained of the heat when the pipes were placed very near to them.

This subject is one of much difficulty, since whilst it is undesirable to raise the temperature above  $64^{\circ}$ , it has been found, in hospitals heated in this manner,

*Ventilation and Warmth.*



A. Burner, and gas pipe to supply the same.

BB. Pipe to carry off the foul air from the burner.

CC. Pipe to carry off the heated air of the room.

DD. Inlet for cold external fresh air.

The arrows show the direction of the currents of air when in operation.



impossible to prevent wide variations, and sometimes that degree of heat has been much exceeded. Moreover, all methods of this class tend to unduly dry the air, and render the occurrence of inflammatory diseases more probable in those inmates who may be predisposed to them. The former can scarcely be prevented, if at the same time it be needful to raise the temperature of the air considerably; but the latter may be in part obviated by the evaporation of water.

The ventilating stove which has been introduced into certain parts of barracks is worthy of the attention of the Guardians, since by its construction it warms the air which is admitted into the rooms.

#### NURSING.

##### *Nursing.*

It must, I think, be admitted universally, that the sick and the infirm aged must in future be attended by paid nurses, and the pauper inmates be employed only as servants, or in an entirely subordinate capacity. It is impossible to lay down any scale of numbers, since the separation of the various buildings in most workhouses, and the classification of the inmates, demand that the requirements of each workhouse shall be separately studied. As a rule, however, a greater proportional number of nurses will be required in the lunacy, lying-in, and sick wards than in the aged and infirm wards. Wherever it is practicable, there should be separate nurses for each of those classes, but the nurse of the lying-in ward might also have special care of the nursery. There should also be both day and night nurses. When making our inspection of the different workhouses, we endeavoured to consider the special circumstances of each, and conferred with the medical officer and master, and I have given the results in the separate reports.

From these reports and from the tables in this Report, it will be seen that there are more than 130 paid nurses already appointed, and about the same number of additional ones are now immediately needed. In effecting this important and necessary change in the system of nursing it is advisable that the guardians should use much discretion lest the issue should not be satisfactory, and the following observations may not be unworthy of their consideration.

1. To obtain trustworthy and efficient persons, a suitable salary and apartments must be provided. The salary at present varies from about 12*l.* to 50*l.* and it was a matter of surprise to me that nurses apparently so respectable could be obtained at Marylebone Workhouse at 14*l.* per year. In many of the workhouses, as at Rotherhithe, the present accommodation for nurses is not such as to render the nurses contented.

2. It must not be presumed that because nurses are to be paid, perfection will be attained. The experience of hospitals shows that many such are careless and inefficient, not over honest, and given to strong drinks when opportunity offers. Drunkenness is by no means unknown in hospital nurses.

3. A system of general superintendence of the nursing must be devised and carefully watched with a view to improvement. At present the matron is presumed to do this, and if there should be a superintendent nurse appointed she will not unfrequently assume upon her position, and misunderstandings between her, the matron, and the medical officer may reasonably be expected.

In the smaller workhouses it would be possible for such superintending nurse to have charge of a particular part of the workhouse, as, for example, the lying-in ward and the nursery.

4. Whilst providing comfortable rations for the nurses it is advisable to withdraw the temptation of strong drinks as far as possible. This may be effected by allowing the night nurse an abundant and comfortable tea, by giving a monetary allowance instead of beer and gin to such as will take it and faithfully refrain from using those liquids, and, above all, by appointing teetotal nurses. This seems to be at the root of the question, and with the probable extension of the system of paid nurses the guardians might mitigate the evil. All rewards for special labour should be given in another form.

5. In utilising the inmates as aids in nursing, more care should be taken in their selection; a monetary reward, and some badge of honour made dependent



dent upon good conduct, and some special privileges allowed which would excite emulation and promote self-respect. At present the allowances appeal almost exclusively to the appetite, and lead to drunkenness, and but little indeed appeals to their sense of self-respect and ambition.

There seems no reason why persons should not be found in every workhouse who, by this method and some training, could not be removed from the ranks of paupers and promoted to the situation of under or assistant nurses.

The capability to read should be an essential requirement for all but those engaged in mere menial work, and there seems no doubt that if some proper efforts were made to enable the inmates to learn to read, it would not only profitably engage their time and thoughts, but would increase their self-respect, give them the means of gaining amusement and instruction, and make them more fitted to aid in the nursing department.

It is desirable that a system should be devised for elevating the condition of the permanent inmates of workhouses in this direction, and none could do this so efficiently as Mrs. Gladstone, Mrs. Tait, Miss Twining, and the other benevolent ladies who are already interested in workhouse management. I do not doubt that one workhouse might be supplied with some nurses from the trained inmates of another.

6. The procuring and administration of stimulants and the administration of medicine should be effected entirely by the paid nurses, and the stimulants should be kept under their care and subject to their responsibility.

7. The midwife should reside within the workhouse, and having undergone a proper training, should occupy a position higher than the nurses and have more comfortable apartments.

8. Male nurses, except for the care of lunatics and imbeciles, are not so fitted for the care of the sick as females.

#### CHAPLAIN.

I do not think that there is any greater defect in the arrangements of a workhouse than in those with which the chaplain is or should be connected—a defect which is not properly appreciated,—and there is a requirement in connection with it greater even, if possible, than that of medical attention. *Chaplain.*

Whilst both a workhouse and a hospital agree in the reception of sick cases, they differ in this, that the inmates of a workhouse usually remain there for many years, or until the end of life; and even the chronic sick are not turned away after a few months treatment, as at an hospital, but are retained until death or recovery occurs. Old age and infirmity are, for the most part, beyond medical skill, as is also the large majority of cases of consumption and other chronic diseases which are found in the workhouse wards. Thus the benefits of the medical officer's attention are usually temporary; but, for the same reason, the opportunity for the exercise of the chaplain's ministry is incalculably great, and the issue extremely important. Hence, whilst every facility should be offered to the skill of the medical officer, surely not less should be given to and solicited from the chaplain; and if daily visits and personal and careful attention are required from the former, the same, at least, should be required from the latter.

But in extremely few workhouses is there a resident chaplain; and, with those exceptions, there is no provision made in any workhouse (or in exceedingly few workhouses) for their daily visits, and for personal attention, except to the sick; and in some instances, as at Stepney, with two chaplains, each receiving a small stipend, they are not summoned to see a dying case unless the patient wishes it. It was most painful to see the dying man at that union left alone to die without religious instruction, and not less so to bear in mind that so many die in institutions without that constant instruction and consolation which a resident chaplain, or a minister who attends daily, could alone afford.

But beyond this, the instruction of the inmates by religious and entertaining books, and, indeed, their amusement by simple games, and by occasional musical entertainments, as well as the practice of singing for the choir, seems to be a duty which could be most kindly and effectually performed under the superintendence of the chaplain.

He could select proper books and tracts, and suit them to the individual inmates;

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*Chaplain.*

inmates; and he could read and explain, and induce benevolent persons to read and explain them; and, by his example and encouragement, excite an interest which is now sadly wanting.

Nothing is more lamentable than to see so many aged and infirm persons listlessly lying or sitting about with no instruction, no amusement, and no occupation; and to know that they are practically confined to the workhouse, are in the charge of the State, and will remain so until they die. No attention and no money could be more appropriately given than to remedy this evil.

The stipends of the chaplains, like the amount of duty which they are required to perform, and the position which they should occupy in the scheme of management in workhouses, are inadequate.

In my opinion, a chaplain should be required to attend daily for a certain number of hours, whether for formal religious service, or for the informal instruction and comfort of the inmates; and in the large workhouses he should devote his whole time to the duties of his office, and reside within the walls. As a consequence, he should receive a suitable stipend; he should, moreover, in many cases like the medical officer, be an *ex officio* member of the Board of Guardians, with power to speak, but not to vote.

It cannot be doubted that a prudent and diligent chaplain would be able to exert a favourable influence, both upon the poor themselves, and upon the administration of the poor laws in the workhouse.

#### MEDICAL OFFICER.

*Medical Officer.*

The subject of the medical care of the inmates of workhouses is of so great importance, and is at present so diverse that its discussion is attended with much difficulty.

At present the greater number of workhouses have each one medical officer, and he is allowed private practice. In a considerable number the same officer has charge of an out-door district, and thus has more of his time and attention engaged in the service of the poor. A few workhouses have two medical officers each, and in a small number the guardians engage the whole time of the medical officer, who resides or does not reside within the workhouse. In a large proportion the guardians provide all the drugs with or without a dispenser; in others they find some drugs, and in a few they do not provide any.

In some, all the extras allowed by the Poor Law Board are paid to the medical officer, in others only a part of them, and in some none; and hence the salary paid to that officer is or is not increased by extras, and is or is not decreased by the cost of drugs.

As numerous questions arise for discussion under this head, I will now proceed to consider them in order.

1. *As to Residence.*—There is no reason why a medical officer should not discharge his duties efficiently, whether he reside within the workhouse or very near to it, for the class of cases are such as rarely make sudden calls for him, and very rarely necessitate a night visit. It is, however, essential that he reside very near to the workhouse, and that he be not so much engaged in other duties that he cannot speedily answer the workhouse call.

When the workhouse is very large, and such as to demand nearly the whole time of a medical man, it is doubtless convenient that he should reside within the walls.

At present this is unfrequent, and the accommodation provided is not fitting for a professional man.

2. *As to Private Practice.*—The only incompatibility between the pursuit of private practice and the discharge of workhouse duties is that of the extent of practice. The income from the workhouse is fixed, whilst that from private practice varies with the number of individual visits, and it will depend upon the habits and views of the medical officer whether he will allow the one to clash with the other. My knowledge of medical men is extensive, and, judging from that and the general moderation of desire for pecuniary gain which marks the profession, I feel assured that even with the temptation of private practice the duties of medical officer, in his attendance upon the sick, are very generally well and faithfully performed. In individual cases this may not be so, and, in general, whether the subject be regarded in this light or in that of the distribution



tion of professional advantages among professional men, I do not doubt that a medical gentleman enjoying large private practice should make way at the workhouse for another, and that it is to the advantage of the poor that the medical officer should have time at his command, and ambition as his incentive to duty.

3. *As to Assistance.*—Except in the cases where a resident assistant is needful, as in large workhouses, I am of opinion that whilst the medical officer should appoint a deputy, he should himself personally discharge all the duties of the office. The plan of a medical officer sending an assistant to see some of the cases before his arrival, is to lessen his knowledge and interest in the sick cases, and, in fact, although not in theory, to lessen his responsibility. It is, moreover, advantageous to the poor that they should be always under the treatment of the same person.

When the assistant is thus employed because the medical officer is indisposed to do the work, or because his pecuniary means render him independent of the appointment, or because he is largely engaged in private practice, the medical officer should resign and make room for some less fortunate person; and when it arises from old age, or from the fact that the medical officer has a partner whose duty is to aid in the performance of the work, the guardians would do well to appoint the substitute or the partner as co-medical officer, with a separate salary and absolute responsibility.

A resident assistant might be wisely appointed to all workhouses having 500 inmates.

4. *As to Exclusion from Private Practice.*—This implies the devotion of the whole time of the medical officer to the duties of the office. Arguments may be cogently cited both in favour of and against this exclusion. It is said that the medical officer will in that case be young and inexperienced, and will resign as soon as his way is clear to enter upon private practice. As to the former, the existing facts are adverse, for in a majority of cases the medical officer is not young; and, moreover, Sir B. Brodie, when giving evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Law Administration, was of opinion that as young men have time at command and a strong desire to advance their interests in the world, they would probably be, upon the whole, more valuable medical officers than men more advanced in life and largely engaged in private practice. To this also may be added the fact, that several of the existing officers have held the appointment for many years.

There are, however, some disadvantages.

(A.) When a medical man regards this as his fixed object in life he may lose the incentive of ambition, and be so engrossed by and content with his duties that he withdraws from association with his professional brethren, reads but little, and soon lags behind the time. To this there are no doubt exceptions, and it is possible for one so circumstanced to make use of his leisure to increase his acquaintance and medical knowledge.

(B.) When a medical man has thus chosen his course and has attained to a certain age he becomes unfit for private practice, or if he should seek it he would not find it, and thus his means of living are at the mercy of the guardians. Appointments of this class in the medical profession are not so numerous that a medical officer would readily pass from one to another, and thus he would be likely to lose some of his sense of independence and become more and more subservient to the views of some leading guardians. Hence, he might hesitate to discharge some of the duties of his office (as, for example, the ordering of extras and the removal of noisy lunatics) with proper independence. On the other hand it is possible for a prudent man to increasingly gain the esteem and confidence of the guardians, so that as he becomes older he may become more influential.

My own judgment and observation lead me to regard the former as the more probable occurrence under the existing arrangements.

To these considerations must be added the fact that there are many medical men who, from want of pecuniary means or good address, do not succeed in private practice, but who are admirably fitted to discharge the duties of a public appointment of this class. Such would, for the most part, be men in middle

life and of matured and fixed purposes, and I cannot doubt that many such would make good officers, and that such appointments would supply a want.

The question of residence within the workhouse arises in these cases, for in some workhouses, as at Mile End, the medical officers are married, and live out of the workhouse.

Having reference to the discharge of their duties, and, on the ground of economy, both to the guardians and themselves, it would be better for them to reside within the workhouse, since the guardians might provide a house and officers' rations at a much less cost than that paid by the medical officer out of the workhouse; and if the latter were a married man the rations allotted to himself alone, being double rations, would do much towards supplying the wants of a wife or even of a small family. If the plan of appointing officers of this class were to be extended, it would be desirable that houses should be provided for them within the walls, such as are found in lunatic asylums. This would not be difficult in the case of workhouses having large plots of land, as at Mile End. It is, however, probable that some officers would prefer to live without the walls.

5. *As to holding the Office of Medical Officer to a District.*—In the case of those who devote their whole time to the service of the Guardians, it may not be doubted that if the workhouse be not a large one, it is advantageous that the double appointment should exist. The case is, however, different with those engaged in private practice, for, on the one hand, the salary allotted by the guardians to the two offices is certainly less than would be given to each separately, and to two different persons. Moreover, except in the case of young men just entering upon practice, the two sets of duties are scarcely compatible with private practice, and I have reason to think that the duties, and particularly those within the workhouse, would be more efficiently discharged if an officer held only one appointment. Moreover, as there are always numerous medical men desirous to hold these appointments in the metropolis, it would be more consistent in the guardians to multiply their officers, and, on the whole, it would be more advantageous to the medical profession.

6. *As to Duties.*—The idea prevails too generally, I think, that the attention of the medical officer is due to the sick only, and that in order to discharge his duty more conveniently and expeditiously the sick should be congregated together in a separate building or in separate wards. But with the present organization of workhouses, I think he should regard the whole as an asylum, and, with the exception of the rooms for the able-bodied, should visit every ward and see every inmate more frequently than is now practised.

Moreover, the medical officer does not, I think, occupy that position as sanitary officer which is indicated by the Consolidated Order, and which would be very useful to the guardians and conducive to his own satisfaction and position. It is not enough, I think, to hasten through the sick wards and see such as are very ill, or such as desire a visit, and to enter the door of the aged and infirm wards and ask if any inmate wishes to see him, and to omit the wards in the body of the workhouse altogether, or visit them once a week or once in a fortnight. He should also consider as in his department all the subjects on which his opinion should be expressed, and which are of the greatest moment in the Poor Law Administration, such as nursing, diet, serving of food, classification of the inmates, supply of furniture and clothing, and cubic space, and should not fail to advise the guardians and point out defects on suitable opportunities. In this respect he would not only discharge his duty to the guardians but also to the Poor Law Board, which represents the public by whom half of his salary is paid.

His position is one of much influence, but of some delicacy and difficulty, from the numerous points at which his duties touch those of the master, matron, superintendent nurse, and guardians; and as he has now, by universal assent, the power to order certain extras, which even the guardians respect, so should his influence be felt in the nursing, and in every sanitary arrangement of the workhouse.

I do not purpose to enter into any detail in reference to the precise duties of the medical officer, but I think that in all the metropolitan workhouses he should attend at two stated periods daily. It is impossible to fix the time which should be devoted to the discharge of the duty, but in several workhouses  
the



the actual time is, I think, too short: and in general, when only two hours, or thereabouts, are daily occupied, a further extension of time is, I think, necessary. It is also important to state that far too much clerical work is required of the medical officer. In some cases, as at Shoreditch, we were assured that not less than 12 hours weekly were spent in keeping his books, whilst two to six hours were the usual periods elsewhere. If a general dietary were ordered which was suited to the wants of the aged and infirm, much of this disagreeable work would not be necessary.

Bed cards stating the nature of the disease, with the diet and medicines ordered, and repetitions of the same, with the date, should be placed over each bed, or on the side of each locker.

I think also that he should attend all cases of midwifery, and receive for his fee the amount paid by the non-pauper poor, at least, in every workhouse where there is not a properly qualified resident midwife.

The arrangement of the system of nursing should also be under his control and direction.

7. *Supply of Drugs.*—In three instances the medical officer intimated that it would be better for their patients if they had not to provide the drugs, and implied that they did withhold, or were tempted to withhold, proper drugs from them. I fear that the use of this argument, for the purpose of inducing guardians to increase the salaries of medical officers, has been too much sanctioned by the latter, and by the medical profession, since it implies a charge of cruelty and dishonesty against medical officers,—that of withholding the means of restoring health which, by their contract with the guardians, they were bound to supply. I utterly disbelieve such an inference in reference to the medical profession generally, and could admit it only in the most exceptional case. It is, perhaps, not known that even in reference to drugs, there are both luxurious and economical modes of dispensing which yet make no appreciable difference in the effects of the remedy. Whether a medical officer give carbonate of ammonia at 10*d.*, or compound spirit of ammonia at 3*s.* 6*d.* per lb., is of little or no real moment to the patient, so that whilst he may choose to give the more expensive form to a private patient, he inflicts no injury upon, nor deprives of any benefit, the club patient, the hospital patient, or the pauper, when he prescribes the cheaper form. Only so far, I feel assured, does a difference exist in the supply of medicine to paupers, and it is impossible to believe that a medical man who had undertaken the charge of a sick person, whether with or without remuneration, would withhold needful medicines.

But to avoid the possible occurrence of this evil in any individual case, and to relieve the medical officer from the virtual deduction of salary, caused by the cost of drugs, it would be more satisfactory if the guardians were to provide all the requisite drugs. This should not be as at Paddington, by paying a druggist to dispense the medicines, but by purchasing the drugs from wholesale houses at the wholesale prices, and having them dispensed in the workhouse. This plan may not be adapted to country unions, but in London and some of the larger provincial unions the guardians should provide the drugs for both the in-door and out-door poor, and have them dispensed at one place by their own dispenser.

8. *As to a Dispenser.*—When the guardians provide drugs for the out-door poor there is sufficient employment for a dispenser, and they appoint one who dispenses the medicines for the workhouse also. There is also a dispenser employed at Lambeth for the workhouse only, who, in addition to this duty, superintends the nursing on the male side. Should the guardians universally find drugs, it will be wise also for them to pay a dispenser, and to engage his spare time in other duties, as those of a superintendent of nurses, or clerk to the master or storekeeper, &c. The medical officer would thus be relieved of a disagreeable duty, and might fairly be required to devote more time to his other duties, whilst the management of the workhouse would be materially improved by the attention of the dispenser to the other part of his duty.

9. *As to Salary.*—It has been already shown that the arrangements as to salary and emoluments are at present very varied, and not based upon recognisable principles. When discussing these questions with the medical

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officers, we learned that only in three or four instances were they satisfied with their emoluments, and the others mentioned certain sums which, as they considered, should be paid to them, and which I have stated in the special reports.

There was a general wish, in which I fully concur,—

(A.) That the guardians should provide drugs and a dispenser, and

(B.) That extras for midwifery, &c., as allowed by the Poor Law Board, should be added; and the medical officers should sign lunacy certificates and receive the fees.

Some did not care to have a dispenser, and others preferred an inclusive salary, whilst the medical officers at Marylebone and St. Pancras were not specially desirous of any change.

It is, perhaps, not possible to lay down any principle in the payment of salaries to medical officers which shall commend itself to the judgment of all, and as in payment for nearly all other duties, it must rest upon the relations of supply and demand, and be its own authority.

It has always been the practice of the medical profession to do a very large amount of work without fee, and thence, with the exception of certain recognised fees, to attach more value to the duty than to direct emolument. Hence, medical men have taken public appointments without salary, or with a totally inadequate salary, and having no agreement amongst themselves by which they could act together, they have been ready to underbid each other. Legislation has mitigated this evil in reference to the Poor Law, by rendering it illegal to receive tenders from medical officers, and by requiring the guardians to fix the salary before the appointment is made; but beyond this it could not go, and the profession must be allowed to undersell its services if it should think proper so to do.

But in spite of this, salaries have increased, and so impressed are the public with their inadequacy in relation to the service rendered, and the position and expenses of medical men, that the increase is still progressive, but no principle has been evolved by which it might be known when a medical officer was fairly remunerated.

In the case of resident medical officers, the guardians have the advantage of the example of other institutions, as hospitals and that of medical men, in paying their assistants; but there is no analogy in the case of those who are at the same time engaged in private practice, except that of their ordinary fees, which could not be adopted.

It is usual, when comparing the salaries in different workhouses, and showing the inadequacy of them, to take as the basis the number of sick; but this fails, I think, for two opposite reasons: first, the number of sick is increased by fully one-third in most workhouses, simply in order to obtain for the aged and infirm a better dietary, and the name and diet being thus placed upon the list, but little or no further attention to that case is required, and hence the work can be fairly estimated only by the numbers from which these are excluded; second, it appears to me desirable that, in future, the attention of the medical officer should be more regularly directed to all the inmates of the workhouse, and that he should assume the duties of sanitary officer, all of which will demand the employment of more time than has hitherto been necessary.

And in addition to these may be added the diversity of plan pursued by different medical officers in reference to lunatics, which alone prevents an accurate comparison between the labour of the several officers.

Yet it should not be impossible to arrive at an agreement amongst medical men as to the sum which should be regarded as fairly sufficient. If the recommendation already made be effected, viz. that the guardians in all cases provide drugs, and in suitable cases a dispenser, would it not be satisfactory generally for the salary to be calculated at the rate of 10*s.* per adult on the average maximum number of inmates in the workhouse at one time?—two children, as defined by the Poor Law, viz. persons under *æt.* 16, to be considered as an adult.

This would require a considerable increase in the salaries of nearly all the medical officers, and particularly of those in the larger workhouses; and it would probably lead the guardians to appoint one or more resident medical officers



officers to each workhouse, who would devote their whole time to the duties of the office.

All medical officers who devote their whole time to the duties of their office should be entitled to a superannuation allowance, and be placed by the Legislature under the provisions of the Superannuation Act.

10. *As to their Ability and Rank.*—It has been the fashion to consider the Poor Law medical officers as members of the profession of inferior ability or character, or as young and inexperienced men, willing to accept these appointments with a view to obtain private practice; and it has been very generally asserted that, being underpaid, they have discharged their duties in a careless manner.

However true this may have been 30 years ago, it is, I believe, utterly incorrect now. The advances in medical knowledge and the improvement in medical teaching have been great, almost beyond conception, within that period; and an amount of knowledge, whether practical or literary, which 30 years ago was very much restricted to the higher branches of the profession and to a few leading men in the larger provincial towns, has been extended to the lower branch of the profession and as a necessary result, the position of its members, both before the public and in the estimation of the higher ranks of their *confrères*, has been increased in a remarkable manner.

It is impossible to meet the medical officers of the metropolitan workhouses without perceiving and acknowledging the high position which they hold by character and attainments, and in many instances the discretion as well as ability with which they discharge their duties. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that the same gentleman who is the medical officer to the workhouse is the medical adviser of the middle classes in the surrounding neighbourhood; nay, even of some of the very guardians who have charge of the poor; and if he be fitted to attend upon the middle classes and the guardians in their private capacity, he must be fitted to attend the poorer classes and to merit the confidence of the guardians in their corporate capacity. It would, probably, be scarcely possible to find a body of medical officers who could excel those now in office or who could discharge their duties more kindly.

Moreover, a great advance has been made in the estimation in which these appointments are held both by the profession and the public. The medical officer regards the workhouse as his hospital, and, in his degree, regards his position with as much pride and pleasure as is felt by the hospital physician; whilst, with few exceptions, the public regard the appointment as honourable, and as evidence of the ability and integrity of the medical officer.

Hence, in every aspect of the question there is reason for congratulation; and it now only remains to reconsider the duties of the office, and the time to be devoted to it, with a view to its increased efficiency, and to award such a salary as shall remove just grounds of complaint, increase the value with which the medical officer regards it, and be an inducement to the most able, industrious, and discreet, and, in a word, the most efficient medical man, to compete for it. There can be no doubt that when this has been attained, and a resident assistant has been appointed in the larger workhouses, both physicians and general practitioners of high position will seek the appointments, and within a few years the appointment may rank as high before the public and the medical profession as that of the present hospitals. When this takes place, or indeed before that period, it may be thought right that the medical officer should be a member of the Board of Guardians, with power to speak at the meetings of the Board, but not to vote.

#### DIETARY.

As we have not entered upon the subject of sick dietaries, and as the general question of dietaries in workhouses will doubtless receive the attention of the Poor Law Board, I purpose only to offer here one or two suggestions relating thereto.

1. It is desirable that the joints be carried into the different wards upon hot dishes, and there cut up, and immediately served.

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2. The meals for such of the aged and infirm as cannot readily go down stairs, should be served in the day rooms, and the joints cut upon the table.

3. Extended accommodation for cooking should be provided in the detached infirmaries, and in parts of the workhouse distant from the main kitchen.

4. When the food must be taken to distant buildings or wards, it should be carried in the manner pursued at the City of London workhouse, or on a tray which is enclosed by a wooden cover, and the master or matron should be held responsible for the state in which it is served to the patients.

5. Better arrangements in cooking both as to material and skill than we found in many, and particularly in the older workhouses, should be effected, and some officer regarded as responsible for the whole.

6. A dietary especially adapted to the requirements of the aged and infirm, imbeciles and lying-in women, should be arranged and regarded as sick diets.

8. The subject of waste of food would be more fittingly discussed when the whole question of dietaries is under discussion; but it may be proper to call attention to the great waste of food which occurs in workhouses, as indeed in other public institutions. It was lamentable to see the swill tub at the East London Workhouse, filled like a solid mass, with excellent bread and other food, which might have fed many persons daily.

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THE defects, which have now been pointed out, and which in some form and degree are very general, are not of sudden or accidental occurrence, but have existed for lengthened periods; and in obedience to the instructions of the Poor Law Board that I should suggest such alterations as might appear advisable, it seems needful to refer to some parts of the scheme of Poor Law Administration, with a view to show how the defects have arisen, why they have not been removed, and the changes which appear to be necessary in the future.

Poor Law organisation is naturally divided into two parts; viz., the local and executive authority, and the central and supervising authority, with the officers under their control.

Board of Guar-  
dians.

The local authority consists of a Board of Guardians, who are elected for a year only, and are presided over by a chairman and one or more vice-chairmen, of their own appointment. Their chief officers are the clerk, master, medical officer, matron, schoolmaster and schoolmistress, relieving officers and rate collectors, and the subordinates are the porter, nurses, storekeeper, and superintendent of labour. The schoolmaster and schoolmistress are found only at the schools; whilst the relieving officers and collectors of rates are devoted to duties apart from the workhouse, and need not be included in this report.

The guardians consist of two classes; viz., *ex officio*, and elected. The former are the county magistrates; and whilst several are met with on every country Board of Guardians, scarcely any belong to the Metropolitan Boards. Those in the country may be regarded as the representatives of property and influence. The elected guardians obtain their position by the votes of the ratepayers, except in the parishes in London which have Local Acts, and there they are chosen by the vestries. Speaking generally, they represent the middle classes, and by their knowledge of the poor in their several localities, may be said to represent the masses of the population.

From a body so constituted, it might be expected that each of its two parts would have special views; and if to the former may be allowed superior education, to the latter must be allowed that which is at least equal in importance—an intimate acquaintance with the wants of the poor, and the views of



the ratepayers ; and, in the country, at least an acquaintance with the character and wants of the applicants for relief.

As the distribution of relief is the essence of Poor Law executive administration, the presence of the class of elected guardians is indispensable. The numbers of the two classes of guardians are extremely dissimilar ; so that perhaps there may be in a country district six *ex officio* to 40 elected guardians, whilst in London the proportion is even less ; and hence, if diversity of views upon general questions does exist, the former are usually out-voted. Practically, therefore, it has been found that the *ex officio* class rarely attend the meetings of the Board ; exert but little influence when they do attend, and lose interest in the working of this most important department of the State.

If, therefore, there were good grounds for the admission of these two classes (and I cannot see how it can be denied), they have been rendered nugatory by the defect now pointed out. Moreover, the *ex officio* guardians constitute the only permanent element of the Board, whilst the elected guardians, although often re-elected, are a varying body.

This latter quality is not an unmixed good ; for the short tenure of office, and the frequently recurring periods of election, keep the guardians in fear of their constituents ; and when any unusual expenditure of money is needed, they have often to choose between deferring the question until after the next election, or of voting in a manner which may prevent their re-election. I do not doubt that this is an evil of considerable magnitude, and that the guardians would act more independently, and the Poor Law be more liberally administered, if their term of office were extended.

The visitation and inspection of the workhouse by the visiting committee of the Board of Guardians, is perhaps the most defective part of the present system, and that to which many of the existing defects may be properly traced. The conduct of these committees must necessarily vary much in so many workhouses, but usually they visit too unfrequently, and in too great a hurry, and are too much disinclined to recommend changes.

The inspection of hospitals is more efficient, since usually one or two members of the committee of management visit twice or thrice a week, and go through every ward, and invite complaints. Moreover, they are often gentlemen connected with, and know the practice in other hospitals, and take deep interest in the discharge of their duties.

The visiting committee should, I think, visit every ward in the workhouse twice a week, keep a record of their proceedings in an amended form, and make their observations and recommendations under different heads ; as complaints, cleanliness, nursing, ventilation, sufficiency of furniture and effects, medical attendance, &c. ; and a copy of their report, together with the decision of the guardians thereon, should be forwarded to the Inspector with Form A. The Chairman of the Board should be a chief member of this committee, and bear a full share of the labour and responsibility.

In reference to the officers of the Board of Guardians, I would premise a general remark ; viz., that for the good government of the institution all the officers must, as at present, be primarily subject to the Board of Guardians, or otherwise there would be an *imperium in imperio*, and collision of authorities would follow.

At the same time their duties and responsibilities should be more strictly defined, and so allotted that one person alone shall be primarily responsible for a given matter, and that every matter which could be the subject of inquiry by the inspector or the guardians shall be in the charge of a given officer. It should also be more deeply felt that, as they hold their offices under the sanction and during the pleasure of the Poor Law Board, and as the salary of one of them, the medical officer, is partly paid out of State funds, which may be said to be represented by the Public Department to which the administration of the Poor Law has been confided, their co-operation with the Poor Law Board is as necessary as is their service to the guardians.

The influence of the master is very great, since he is regarded as the head of the executive within the workhouse, and is in direct and constant communication with the guardians. Hence, it is no doubt of the highest importance that he should combine within himself the intelligence, prudence, knowledge, integrity, industry, firmness, and courtesy, which are required for the efficient discharge of his duties. It cannot be denied that in some instances some of



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these qualities are wanting; and that whilst some are in a degree careless others are overbearing; neither can they all be expected, in a master who has been engaged during his previous life in another and not analogous calling, and perhaps in the discharge of military or other duties which have unduly developed some of these to the prejudice of other qualities. It is, however, very rarely found that a master can originally have had a suitable training; and, after his appointment, his success will much depend upon his own special qualities: but it is not by any means certain that the obtainment of these officers from a higher class in society would do much more than supplant one class of defects by another. It is less class advantages than personal qualities and previous experience that are needed.

One radical defect in the duties of the master is the amount of time which he must devote to mere clerical labour, one which the guardians, by giving him a clerk, would and should entirely remove. He will discharge his duties the most efficiently by having all his time at his command, so as to enable him to visit every part of the workhouse, and to be practically acquainted with every detail; to be present at the distribution of the food, and whenever any special duties are being performed, and to prevent waste; also in training inmates to be useful in the workhouse, in improving the state of the yards, and, in general, in devising plans whereby the whole establishment may be more and more efficiently conducted.

It was possible for us, on entering the first ward, to estimate with tolerable accuracy the qualities of the master, and when we found general deficiency of furniture and impropriety of conduct on the part of nurses, and saw the food carried about uncovered, and heard the remark made when defects were pointed out, "You should have asked for them," it was not difficult to see where the main defect existed; and so in like manner with evidences of an opposite character, the credit was chiefly due to the master.

Hence, in not a few instances, some of the defects which we have pointed out may rest with this officer, and in order to satisfy the Poor Law Board that he has taken steps to remedy them, all his recommendations to the Board of Guardians should be in writing, and those with the result annexed should be sent to the Inspector.

The Medical  
Officer.

Many will doubt whether the medical officer has in all cases fully discharged his duty in reference to some of the existing defects. Some of his duties involve scientific and technical knowledge such that no Boards of Guardians could be expected to possess; as, for example, ventilation, cubic space, and dietary. Besides his immediate duty of attendance upon the sick, he is required by the Consolidated Order (207) "to give directions and make suggestions as to the diet, classification and treatment of the sick paupers and paupers of unsound mind." "To report in writing to the guardians any defect in the diet, drainage, ventilation, warmth or other arrangements of the workhouse, or any excess in the number of any class of inmates which he may deem to be detrimental to the health of the inmates." "To report to the guardians any defect which he may observe in the arrangements of the infirmary, and in the performance of their duties by the nurses of the sick." Hence mere attendance upon the sick is only one, and sometimes, perhaps, not the most, important part of his duties; and he is the sanitary officer and adviser of the Board in a very wide sense.

I do not doubt that in many cases representations may have been made in reference to these defects, and they may not have been suitably noticed by the guardians; but in reference to such grave defects as exist in the ventilation and over-crowding of the workhouses, as at the Strand and Clerkenwell, it is advisable that a return be obtained of the actual representations which have been made in writing during the past years.

It would not, in my opinion, meet the question by stating that representations of a general nature had been made. These being scientific questions, the exact value of which cannot be known to the guardians, it seems that in order to discharge the duty efficiently, the exact space allowed to the inmates in each over-crowded ward, compared with the 500 cubic feet required by the Poor Law Board, and the exact defects in ventilation, with their proper remedies, should have been pointed out in writing and repeated more than once.

When, as at Clerkenwell, 9 of 12, or, as at the Strand Union, 19 of 24 wards containing sick offer less than the space required by the controlling authority, and



and when, as at the latter union, excellent means of ventilation might have been readily adopted and applied, and when some of the impediments to ventilation were of the most obvious kind, and yet were not removed, it appears that a serious responsibility rests upon medical officers, who, having regard to the terms of the Consolidated Order, the great importance of the questions involved, and the monopoly of sanitary and scientific knowledge which they are presumed to possess in the workhouse, could be met only by showing that repeated, urgent, and precise recommendations had been made in writing to the guardians.

It is, I think, desirable that in future the Poor Law Board should require that a copy of any recommendations of this class which had been made by the medical officer to the guardians, with the action of the guardians upon it, should be sent to the Inspector, and also that the book in which the medical officer makes his recommendation should be laid before the Inspector at each inspection.

I think it is also questionable how far a medical officer is justified in permitting beds in excess of the proper number to be introduced into a sick ward, at least without strong remonstrance to the Board of Guardians, accompanied by exact information, (and particularly in case of injury to his patients resulting therefrom); and without communicating with the Poor Law Board. If the wards are full, as legally defined, the guardians should provide additional accommodation, but further beds should not be introduced into the full ward.

Neither can it be regarded as an answer that the salary being insufficient, the medical officer could not devote so much time to his duties as his conscience told him he ought to do, as was alleged at the Strand Union, since each medical officer undertook to discharge the duties of his office at the same time that he accepted the insufficient salary.

The matron's duties are varied and multiplied. She superintends the whole internal working of the establishment, the cleaning, the linen, the food, the cooking, the distribution of food, the stores, &c., and in the discharge of these duties has as much as an active person can properly do. But in many workhouses she is expected to superintend the nursing and the bedding, and other questions relating to the sick. The Matron.

In our inspection we saw much to approve; but some were aged, and others corpulent and not able to move about with ease, whilst others knew but little of the condition of the workhouse, and expected the nurses and inmates to ask for combs, basins, towels, and such other things as they needed; and I think more defects were observed in reference to the efficiency of this than of the other superior officers.

In reference to this officer, I think that she should be expected to know that everything in her department is in order, and that supplies are not deficient; and it should not be regarded as an answer that she was not aware of the defects, and had not been asked for the deficient articles. She should also visit every ward and every part of the workhouse at least once a day; and state the result daily in a book to be kept for that purpose; and, in general, I do not doubt that more activity and attention to duty on the part of the matron would be to the advantage of the inmates and guardians.

As the appointment of paid nurses will now be universal, it will merit the consideration of the guardians as to whether the matron, with or without an assistant matron, should still be regarded as the superintendent of the nurses, or whether a superintendent nurse should in general be appointed. Concentration of duties in the matron's department appears to be necessary, so far as it may be effected without clashing of authorities.

The workhouses are placed under the inspection of the Poor Law Board, Poor Law Board and one inspector is appointed to the whole metropolitan district. He is required to meet each Board of Guardians at least once a-year, on which occasion he has the opportunity of conferring with those gentlemen, and of pointing out any deficiency which may exist, and any change which it is desirable to make in the workhouse; also to visit the workhouse when he may deem it to be necessary, and to thoroughly inspect each once in every six months, and report to the Poor Law Board after each inspection. Further, he has to conduct numerous official inquiries, and to perform routine duties in connection with his office, which occupy daily much of his time and thoughts.



No one can have read the preceding parts of this Report which show the ordinary duties of an inspector, without having noticed that there are two essential qualifications required for the efficient inspection of these large hospitals or asylums, viz.: a professional and scientific acquaintance with sanitary science, and a painstaking habit of searching into details. Moreover, in conducting official inquiries, the kind of training if not the knowledge of the lawyer are needful for the efficient discharge of the duty.

This is the view which has been taken by the Lunacy Commission in the selection of their Commissioners; and the duties which are discharged by that Commission in the inspection of lunatic asylums and the lunatics in workhouses are almost identical with those of a Poor Law Inspector. Had the same view been adopted some years since by the Poor Law Board in reference at least to this exceptional district, I do not see reason to doubt that many of the evils which now exist would long ago have been removed, and I cannot but think that the system of inspection is at fault, and should be reconstructed on the model of the Lunacy Commission.

Moreover in this district special reasons have occurred whereby even the ordinary amount of inspection has been temporarily lessened.

Having regard, therefore, to the great extent and professional character of the duties, I venture to think that it would be better for the administration of the Poor Laws if more than one inspector were appointed to this exceptional district, and if, as in the case of the Commissioners in Lunacy in their inspection of lunatic asylums, they were possessed of special and different professional qualifications, and were once a year at least to make their inspections together.

The great diversity in the modes of enlargement, and in the plans of construction of these workhouses, has doubtless been mainly due to the independent views and action of the several Boards of Guardians, but it is probable that if the Poor Law Board should think fit to frame directions as to the general plan of construction, size of rooms, ventilation, &c., for the guidance of architects and Boards of Guardians, many similar defects may be avoided in the future. It is to be borne in mind that this is one of the questions which are as essentially scientific as that of nursing is essentially medical, and that Boards of Guardians cannot be presumed to possess scientific and technical knowledge, and may fairly look to their medical officer on the one hand, and the Inspector of the district and the Poor Law Board on the other, for intimations of deficiency and suggestions as to the remedy.

It is not possible for me to know how far the medical officers have been consulted by the guardians, or with what urgency they have pressed their recommendations, but as the important subject of ventilation has practically slumbered, and in some wards is nearly as bad as it can be, as the system of nursing is only now fairly under consideration, as dietaries of all values and varieties exist in the metropolitan workhouses, and none have been specially recommended to the guardians, as the arrangements of the Poor Law Board in reference to cubical space are so generally disregarded, and as defects and abuses have long existed, it cannot be denied that the inspection has been in a great degree ineffectual, and that much remains for the action of the Poor Law Board.

The correction of the evils of ventilation, which are now so urgent, might be effected within a few months, and the proper course would be for a competent officer of the Poor Law Board to meet the visiting committee of the guardians at each workhouse, and point out the precise remedy required in each ward, and obtain the sanction of the Board of Guardians to its immediate adoption.

The cubical and floor space having now been officially ascertained, the Board should, by order, fix the number of beds to be placed in each ward, and the guardians should paint the number upon the door of the ward. But before this can be effected, it will be needful for the inspector to again visit each workhouse and determine the proper number, having regard to the arrangement of the rooms in reference to fire-places, doors, and gangways. The numbers which I have mentioned in the Special Reports are only approximative.

An uniform system of dietary might readily be prepared for and recommended by the Poor Law Board for the consideration of the guardians, and fixed by order. A special dietary should be appointed for such of the aged and infirm and lunatics as may be permanently placed thereon by the medical officer, and their names should not be repeated in that officer's book.



As there are 12 parishes in the metropolis which administer the Poor Law under special Acts of Parliament, and have a mode of election of guardians differing from that in the Poor Law Unions, it is desirable, for the common good, that their special privileges should merge into the general laws which are administered by the Poor Law Board.

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Conclusions.

### CONCLUSIONS.

Having now considered in detail the various subjects connected with this inquiry, it only remains for me to sum up the chief results in a general manner.

#### 1. *As to the Buildings.*

The sites of the workhouses are in all cases as healthful as the surrounding localities; and, with the exception of those lying upon the level of the river, they are all that could be desired.

The drainage and water supply are almost universally good.

Of the older workhouses, those at Clerkenwell and St. George-the Martyr, and the main buildings (not the infirmaries) at St. Giles and Rotherhithe should be taken down.

It has already been determined to remove the Islington, St. Martin's, and the Strand workhouses. When material changes are to be made in the workhouses at Poplar, Lambeth, Bermondsey, Holborn, and St. Luke's, it may be advisable to reconstruct and perhaps to remove them.

Of the newer workhouses, it is intended to build a new infirmary at Greenwich, and material changes in the construction of the Hackney and St. Margaret's workhouses will be necessary.

There are one or more wards in 19 workhouses which are unfit for the use of the sick.

The size and general arrangements of the wards are in general good, but the wards in the detached infirmaries are in general smaller and less suitable than those in the body of the workhouses.

The water-closet, lavatory, and bathing accommodation is good in many, but deficient in other workhouses, and may be readily improved. The supply of hot water to the different parts of the workhouse is also very frequently deficient, as is also that of cold water on Mondays.

From the construction of many workhouses too little light is admitted into the corridors, and through the corridor walls into the wards, as also through the outer walls, all of which may be remedied.

The ventilation is all but universally defective, whether in the new or the old workhouses, and demands immediate attention. It may be made good in the course of a few months.

The cubic and floor space required by the Poor Law Board is not allowed in some wards of all except four or five workhouses. This is more particularly found in the Strand, Clerkenwell, and Greenwich workhouses, and is there almost universal.

The Poor Law Board should by order fix the number of beds which should be placed in each ward.

The minimum floor space to be required for each bed is 6 feet by 9 feet, or 6 feet by 10 feet, or from 54 to 60 superficial feet, and the height of the room should be from 10 to 12 feet. The space between the beds should not be less than three feet. We have found, by experiment, that 500 cubic feet in a well ventilated room is sufficient for health, and that no ward, having that capacity, need have more than 0.046 per cent. of carbonic acid in the air by day, and 0.050 to 0.075 per cent. by night. The essence of the question is the ventilation, which may and must be rendered good.

Hence, in fixing the number of beds to be placed in each room, each and all of the following regulations should be observed:—

- 1st. That not less than 500 cubic feet be allowed.
- 2d. That not less than 3 feet between each bed be allowed.
- 3d. That not less than from 54 to 60 superficial feet be allowed.

As the wards are usually from 10 to 12 feet in height, and some of them nearly 30 feet in width, the usual cubic space will exceed the minimum.

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*Conclusions.*

More space is required in the large majority of workhouses. In about half of them there is plenty of land upon which to build. Some are about to be removed to larger sites, others must be pulled down, and a few remain, of which the guardians must determine whether they have sufficient land or not.

Re-arrangement of the different parts of workhouses is necessary. As the number of able-bodied inmates is small, except in a few workhouses, and as the children, fever, and small-pox cases, venereal cases, and noisy and dangerous lunatics, are practically not retained, the workhouse is required almost exclusively for the aged and infirm (particularly for women), with the sick arising from them and from other sources. Hence, the whole of the main building should be given up to those two classes, whilst the able-bodied, lunatics, and the few cases of disease requiring separation, should be placed in other buildings.

The body of the workhouse, rather than the infirmary building, should be enlarged, and as these institutions are really asylums, and are neither workhouses nor hospitals, it would be more correct to designate them "Parochial Asylums."

Cleanliness is almost universal, and is usually very remarkable. The beds and bedding are generally good.

A large proportion of the workhouses are deficient in articles of furniture, which may be readily supplied.

It may be needful for the Legislature to confer larger borrowing powers upon the Guardians.

*2. As to the Medical Care of the Aged and Infirm, and Sick.*

Paupers should be employed only as servants and in subordinate capacities. There are now paid non-pauper nurses in all the workhouses except three or four. Their number is upwards of 130, and it should be immediately doubled. This the guardians may readily effect.

The medical attendance upon the sick is generally good, but a re-arrangement of the mode in which the medical officer performs his duties is necessary, with a view to the devotion of more time to them. The medical officers should act more generally as sanitary officers, and their recommendations of every kind should be in writing. The time required to keep the books of the medical officer should be lessened by placing on a separate list all those aged and infirm, and imbeciles, who may be permanently placed upon a special dietary, and the list of the medical officer should in future contain only those who are really sick.

The guardians should provide all drugs and dispensers.

The salaries of the medical officers should be almost universally increased, and, if possible, an approach to an uniform system of payment should be devised.

Their orders for medical extras and appliances are universally allowed by the guardians, and they alone should be held responsible for their sufficiency.

*3. The Government and Supervision of the Workhouse.*

Some change is desirable in the constitution of the Board of Guardians, as by extending the period of service of the elected guardians.

The master, matron, and medical officer should have a deeper sense of their responsibility to the Poor Law Board, and of the two former, some have well earned, and should now receive a superannuation allowance.

All parishes and unions, whether with or without Local Acts, should be brought equally under the direction of the Poor Law Board.

The present amount of inspection, whether by the Visiting Committee of Guardians, or by the Poor Law Board, is not sufficient, and the system is imperfect. More than one inspector of the Poor Law Board should be appointed for the district, and, after the example of the Lunacy Commissioners, they should have special and different professional qualifications. The Chairman of the Board of Guardians should be a chief member of the visiting committee, and bear a large share of the responsibility of the office. Under efficient visitation and inspection, I do not doubt that many of the present evils would be removed.

General instructions in reference to the plan of construction, ventilation, size of rooms, &c., of workhouses, should be prepared and issued by the Poor Law Board.



An uniform dietary should be prepared by the Poor Law Board, and a special dietary be provided for the aged and infirm.

One word is yet necessary, in order that a just inference may be drawn from this inquiry.

Many expressions which have been used have necessarily a relative meaning, and do not convey the same idea to all persons. Thus, the expression "deficiency," in reference to furniture, and medical and general superintendence is indefinite, and will doubtless convey different meanings to different readers.

It is also necessary, to a just conclusion, to distinguish between those matters which are essential to the proper care of the inmates, as, for example, food, housing, and medical attendance, which are usually good, and those which are incidental, as various articles of furniture which are often deficient; and it must not be denied that in institutions which, except to the sick, should have somewhat of a deterrent character, difference of opinion, within narrow limits, may be reasonably held as to the extent to which comforts and luxuries, not found in the houses of that class of persons, should be supplied.

Further, it is needful to bear in mind that the poor have been accustomed to old and low buildings, to deficient light and air, and to the absence of many articles which, to a higher class, would be regarded as necessary; and it is a fact which may not be disputed, that in general they do not like the new buildings, the large and lofty rooms, the bright light, the ventilation, the rigid cleanliness, and the order which are found in most workhouses, and that they are very indifferent to the question of number of towels, combs, brushes, and various appliances which we have recommended.

That defects have existed in an organization which comprehends so many large institutions for the reception of the lowest, and, in many cases, the most depraved class of the community, and managed by unpaid persons, and on the avowed system of economy, is scarcely matter for wonder, and particularly when it is recollected that the system and many of the institutions are of ancient date, and require constant changes in order to keep pace with the rapidly advancing views of the age. Defects and abuses, more or less grave, exist in other institutions of an analogous nature, whether hospitals or prisons, and even in organizations administered by paid agency, and under the immediate direction of the Officers of the State, and they cannot be wanting in some of the 700 workhouses which constitute the largest civil organization in the kingdom, and which deals with an exceptional class of persons.

But, admitting the existence of many defects, as we esteem them, no one can be familiar with the houses of the lowest class of the poor in town and country (as it was my duty to be when instituting inquiries into the dietary of the working classes in every county in England, under the direction of the Privy Council) with the poverty, misery, and immorality which too frequently prevail there, and can walk through these great institutions without appreciating the fact that the inmates are better fed, better clad, better housed, and better cared for than they were before their admission, and better than the great mass of the working classes who earn their own living and constitute the wealth of the country. Little is left now but the restriction to the building, the submission of their own will to that of others, and certain distinguishing marks, as that of clothing, to render the workhouse undesirable to those whose sense of self respect and independence is not strong. On the whole, it may not be doubted whether any destitute poor are cared for as well as those of this country, and whether the Poor Law Administration, with all its defects, is not highly creditable to our nation; and, if we would arrive at a sound conclusion in reference to this inquiry, we must admit the many advantages of our workhouses, whilst we point out defects which demand a remedy.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Edward Smith, M.D., F.R.S.,*  
Medical Officer to the Poor Law Board,  
and Poor Law Inspector.

To the Poor Law Board,  
Whitehall.





# A P P E N D I X.

[NOTE.—*The Recommendations which are made in this Appendix should be read in connection with the corresponding parts of the Report.*]

No 1.

L A M B E T H.

Appendix.

LAMBETH.

WE visited the Lambeth workhouse on the 4th April 1866, and were accompanied throughout by the medical officer and nurses.

The situation of this workhouse, being on the south side of the Thames, is low and flat. The drains, as we were informed, are frequently out of repair, and the system of drainage defective; but we did not perceive any drain-smells, neither did we hear that any such existed at any time, except when the drains were under process of repair; and in the case of one or two of the sinks.

There are two large yards, situated between the wings of the building, and separated from each other by a central block of buildings. There is a portion of one of them railed off for the use of the imbeciles; and there are very small yards attached to the lying-in ward, and the mens' foul ward.

The infirmary wards of this workhouse are 25 in number, and contain 467 beds. A majority of them are placed in wings connected with the main building, whilst others adjoin the wards of the ordinary inmates.

Seventeen are occupied by women, and of these two are devoted to foul cases (one for syphilis, and one for scabies, &c.), one to cases with bad legs, five to the aged and infirm, two to the bed-ridden, one to lying-in cases, one to convalescent lying-in cases, and to very young children, one to chronic cases, and one to acute cases, and two to imbeciles and lunatics.

Eight are occupied by men; and of these, one is devoted to foul cases of a mixed character, one to cases with bad legs, one to chronic cases, one to acute cases, one to cases of ordinary character, one to convalescents, one to bed-ridden, and one to lunatics and idiots.

There are not any fever or infectious wards, since cases of that class are sent to special hospitals.

There are not any day-rooms apart from the dormitories.

The size and dimensions of the several rooms, and the number of beds now found in them, as well as the number recommended by the medical officer, are as follow: Size and general character.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number* of Beds.	Number of Beds recommended by the Medical Officer.
19	Women's foul ward -	<i>Ft. in.</i> 32 0	<i>Ft. in.</i> 24 3	<i>Ft. in.</i> 8 8	15	14
22	Women's infirm ward	32 10	23 9	8 9	16	14
23	Ditto - ditto -	32 0	24 0	8 10	15	14
24	Ditto - ditto -	26 9	20 0	13 0	11	11
26	Lying-in ward -	35 0	19 8	10 9	11	11
28	Women's convalescent ward, and occasionally a nursery.	36 0	21 3	8 8	10 double -	14 adults.
					1 single -	20 adults and children.
29	Women's bad leg ward	36 0	20 9	8 8	17	13
30	Women's infirm ward	36 0	21 0	8 0	16	12
31	Ditto - ditto -	36 0	21 5	8 0	17	12
32	Women's bedridden ward.	35 8	20 0	7 0	15	10
33	Ditto - ditto -	36 0	20 0	7 0	16	10
34	Women's casual ward	—	—	—	—	—
35	Women's foul ward -	30 0	17 6	9 9	10 single 2 double }	10
36	Women's insane ward	30 5	17 9	9 9	12	11
37	Ditto - ditto -	66 6	29 9	10 3	33	32
38	Women's bad leg ward	54 0	28 0	11 6	33	33
39	Women's sick ward -	54 0	28 0	17 0	31	31
10	Male foul ward -	29 7	15 6	11 6	10	10
4	Male insane ward (in two divisions, No. 1 and No. 2).	59 7	19 10	11 6	25	25
11	Male fever ward† -	32 0	29 7	13 0	14	14
5	Male convalescent ward	59 9	19 9	11 8	26	24
6	Male infirm ward -	46 6	28 2	11 0	30	29
7	Male bad leg ward -	59 8	20 0	15 3	24	24
8	Male sick ward -	47 3	27 10	10 9	26	26
8½	Male bedridden ward	47 0	28 0	13 0	31	30

\* These sometimes vary with the season of the year, both in this and in other workhouses.

† It must not be inferred, whether in this or in other workhouses, that the designations which are given in the tables necessarily indicate the present use of the wards; but only that the wards are known in the workhouse by those designations. In numerous instances, and particularly in reference to the fever wards, they have retained the name, whilst devoted to another class of cases; and, for various reasons, the class which occupy them is sometimes changed.

## Appendix.

## LAMBETH.

Thus it appears, that in 14 wards, the actual number of beds in excess of the medical officer's estimate (an estimate generally based upon the allowance of 500 cubic feet to each adult), is 36; and of these, 24 are found in five women's wards, viz.:—Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, devoted to bed-ridden, aged and infirm, and cases of bad legs. Two of these wards, moreover, contain 12 double beds, as at present used.

The floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed (including the bedstead and other furniture), are as follow :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
19	Women's foul ward - - - - -	52	448
22	Women's infirm ward - - - - -	49	426
23	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	452
24	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	632
26	Lying-in ward - - - - -	63	673
28	Women's convalescent ward, and occasionally a nursery.	69 as to beds 36 as to persons*	603 as to beds. 316 as to persons.*
29	Women's bad-leg ward - - - - -	44	381
30	Women's infirm ward - - - - -	47	378
31	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	363
32	Women's bedridden ward - - - - -	48	333
33	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	45	315
34	Women's casual ward - - - - -	—	—
35	Women's foul ward - - - - -	—	—
36	Women's insane ward - - - - -	45	438
37	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	60	614
38	Women's bad-leg ward - - - - -	46	527
39	Women's sick ward - - - - -	49	829
10	Male foul ward - - - - -	46	527
4	Male insane ward (in two divisions, No. 1 and No. 2)	47	514
11	Male fever ward - - - - -	68	879
5	Male convalescent ward - - - - -	45	530
6	Male infirm ward - - - - -	44	480
7	Male bad-leg ward - - - - -	50	609*
8	Male sick ward - - - - -	51	544
8½	Male bedridden ward - - - - -	42	552

\* Some are infants.

The size and general character of the wards are, with some exceptions, fairly good. Two wards, placed at the top of the workhouse, are so low as seven feet; and several others are between eight and nine feet in height; but the sick wards proper vary from about 10 feet to 15 feet.

The rooms generally are of good size and form, with right angles, and without projections. There are windows on both sides, and the wards generally look light and airy.

The floor space and cubical space vary very much; the former varies from 42 to 68 feet, and the latter from 315 to 879 cubic feet.

The largest floor space is in the fever and lying-in wards, and the largest cubical space in the male fever ward.† The least cubical space is found in low wards, occupied by the infirm women, and in five of these it is less than 400 feet. No less than 10 wards have a less cubical space than is required by the Poor Law Board.

The exceptions to the general character of the wards are as follows:—

1. A few, viz. Nos. 38, 39, 6 and 8, are so wide as to require that a middle row of beds shall go down the room. These beds are not objected to by their occupants, but they occupy the space where long tables should be placed on which the inmates should take their food. They crowd the room and lessen the appearance of comfort, and when occupied by day, the occupants are liable to take cold. Hence those persons are placed there, if possible, who are able to get up during the day.

This is, however, an objection of only limited import.

2. No. 19 has windows only on one side, and is therefore less light than others, but yet it is a good room.

No. 35 is exceedingly dark, and if fitted at all for a ward, is only so for ophthalmic cases. There is only one window besides large pieces of glass in the door, and both are at the ends of the room. The medical officer stated that the inmates generally liked it, it being cool in summer and warm in winter; that he did not dislike it, although he would prefer one of the best wards; and that he found it sometimes useful in cases of diseases of the eye. He considered that the cases did well in it.

Nos. 36 and 37 are dark, having windows only at the end, or on one side. The latter is a very large room, and both are very dull and unattractive. There is a small room attached to No. 36, in which cases, who are temporarily violent, are placed in restraint, but it is not padded.

† The fever wards are not now used for fever cases.

\* Assuming height at 12 feet.



No. 10 is also dull, and rendered more so by the windows being protected by latticing and by clothes which hang to dry in the small yard adjoining it.

The bedding throughout the house is good. There are iron bedsteads of the proper length, some of which have sacking, and others iron laths. The beds are of flock, sufficiently filled. There are mattresses in a few cases. The sheets and blankets are good and sufficient. The rugs are good, but look old and not attractive. With the exception of women with children, each bed is occupied by one person only.

There are, in most of the wards, benches with backs and cushions, but in a few only forms are provided. Some arm chairs are found in the different rooms.

There are deal tables upon which the meals are eaten and the medicines arranged; and in some wards there are cupboards in which to place the crockery, but in a majority of the rooms those articles are placed upon a table or shelves.

There is always a night-stool, with a moveable pan, in every ward.

Water-closets are provided on each landing in the west block of buildings, and in some of the rooms, or in some of the lobbies in other places. There is not a separate one for the use of the syphilitic women.

There are scarcely any lavatories, but the inmates wash in the room upon the tables in clean-looking tinned-iron basins. Round towels are provided for the inmates three times a week in No. 39, and many have their own towels. Soap is supplied to them, and when it has been used another supply can be obtained.

There are exceedingly few wards in which are any prints, but in several there are a few periodicals, and in all there are some books.

There are portable baths.

The whole of the wards, floors, tables, linen, beds, furniture and utensils, are exceedingly clean; even in the lying-in wards the beds are without stain, and are properly protected by Mackintosh sheeting. One clean sheet is supplied weekly. There are separate urinals to each bed. In some instances the inmates have accumulated clothes and other articles under the bedding. Chloride of lime is kept in all the wards; and waste paper is found for the inmates. There is a deficiency of water in the cistern in the west block of buildings.

The system of ventilation is moderately good. Besides the windows and open fireplaces, there are large ventilators placed in the walls near to the roof in the ceiling, and in the floor communicating with the outer air through the outer walls. Those in the walls have protection on the outer side by largely perforated sheet iron, but in the inside there is only a shutter, and in the winter time it is kept closed and almost entirely prevents the entrance of air. There is a good current of air pouring through the ventilators in the floor and in the ceiling, and for the most part those ventilators remain open. The staircases are large, and might be made even more useful than at present for the purpose of ventilation.

Nearly all the rooms were sweet and well ventilated during the day; and the exceptions were as follow:—

In No. 29 there was a somewhat sour smell from the poultices. In No. 4 there was an urinary smell in some degree. In No. 8 the air was less pure. In the little room attached to No. 36 there was no ventilator, and the room was close. In No. 37 the ventilation was from one side only. In No. 38 the air was good; but in summer-time there are said to be very offensive smells from the dead-house, dust bins, stables, rag room, and swill tub, which are placed underneath it. In No. 10 the air was not quite fresh. In No. 8½ there was an urinary smell, in some degree, and the ventilators were partially covered by boxes.

There are only three paid nurses on the female side, one of whom devotes her time entirely to the lunatics, and the other two (one an under nurse), have charge of about 250 cases, including midwifery cases to the number of about 180 to 200 yearly. There are in addition always one day nurse, and two helpers to each ward, all of whom are unpaid except that they are allowed meat dinners daily, and have beer or gin. There is also an unpaid night nurse to each ward, or to two or three communicating wards. The lying-in ward is especially under the care of the chief paid nurse, and the ward with acute cases under that of her paid assistant.

The dispenser superintends the nursing on the male side, and states that he has more than he can properly do. There are no paid nurses on that side. A male pauper nurse, with sufficient helpers, are attached to each of the wards. There are no women nurses there.

Of the unpaid nurses, a very large proportion cannot read writing, so as to read the directions upon the bed cards, or upon the medicine bottles. In seeking to ascertain how such persons could administer the medicines properly, we learnt:

1. That a certain number of medicines are kept in the wards, which are known to the nurses by the smell, appearance, or particular bottle. Such are aperient medicines, bark medicine, chest medicine, and anodyne medicines. No label was found upon those in the women's ward, but there was one in the men's ward, and the dose of each is an uniform one. The unpaid nurse receives verbal instructions from the paid nurse, or the medical officer, as to the persons to whom the medicine is to be given.

2. When special medicines are ordered for particular cases, certain forms are kept ready prepared, and have a designation which is written in English upon the bed card. The directions are placed upon the bottles. In these cases, the paid nurse directs the unpaid to give the medicine to the particular case, or the unpaid nurse seeks the aid of an inmate who can read.

The medical officer did not in the least defend this arrangement; but, stating that all

Bedding and furniture.

Cleanliness.

Ventilation.

Nursing.

Appendix.

LAMBETH.

Medical Officer.

medicine bottles should be labelled, said that no evil had resulted from the defect. The paid nurse also stated that she had not known an error to occur.

In some instances, the nurse did not actually measure the dose of medicine in the tablespoon, but guessed it in the glass.

There is one medical officer upon whom the medical care of the sick solely devolves. He resides out of the workhouse, and devotes about two-thirds of his whole time to the duties of his office. The salary is 300*l.* per year, and a further sum of 20*l.* to 30*l.* per year is received as extras.

A dispenser and all the drugs used in the workhouse, are provided and paid for by the guardians. The medical officer informed us that whatever he ordered for particular cases, as diet or comforts, were supplied; but that a general recommendation of his to the effect that one roast-meat dinner should be provided for the sick, weekly, after having been at first acceded to, was ultimately disregarded.

He also stated that there were sufficient medical appliances in the workhouse, and that whatever he asked for was provided.

In his opinion the workhouse is always so nearly full, that practically there is no margin for seasons of pressure, and that more room is requisite. The accommodation for lying-in cases is barely sufficient. Room is required for infectious cases, to meet the occasions when, contrary to the present plan, they are not sent to the hospitals. More accommodation is needed for lunatics, and also for foul cases. The airing grounds are deficient, and day rooms for various classes of convalescents are much required. A bath chair is required in which the very infirm might be wheeled about the yard.

He considered that the whole plan of nursing required revision, with a view to an increase of the paid nurses, and the selection of such unpaid nurses as were young, able, and could read.

The beds should be at least three feet apart, and probably 600 cubic feet of air would be quite enough for each inmate. There are from 80 to 90 acute cases in the whole workhouse, very many of whom have recently been casuals; and there is quite enough employment for the whole time of a medical officer. The wards are sweet, as a rule.

Recommendations.

The following are the suggestions which I have to offer in reference to the improvement of the arrangements at this workhouse.

1. On the principles which I have already laid down, and having special regard to floor space, the number of beds in the different wards should be as follows:—

No. of Ward.	Class of In mates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
19	Women's foul ward - -	10 or 11	36	Women's insane ward - -	†
22	Women's infirm ward - -	10 or 11	37	Ditto - ditto - -	-
23	Ditto - ditto - -	10 or 11	38	Women's bad-leg ward - -	18
24	Ditto - ditto - -	11 or 12	39	Women's sick ward - -	18 or 24†
26	Lying-in ward - -	10 or 11	10	Male foul ward - -	8 or 9
28	Women's convalescent ward, and occasionally a nursery.	10 or 12	4	Male insane ward (in two divisions, No. 1 and No. 2).	-
29	Women's bad-leg ward - -	10 or 12	11	Male fever ward - -	10 or 12
30	Women's infirm ward - -	10	5	Male convalescent ward - -	20
31	Ditto - ditto - -	10	6	Male infirm ward - -	16 or 22
32	Women's bedridden ward - -	8 to 10	7	Male bad-leg ward - -	20
33	Ditto - - ditto - -	8 to 10	8	Male sick ward - -	16 or 22
34	Women's casual ward - -	*	8½	Male bedridden ward - -	16 or 22
35	Women's foul ward - -	8 to 10			

\* The information which is given under this head throughout all the Reports was supplied by the medical officer.

† I have not in any of the returns computed the proper number of beds to be placed in rooms which are occupied by children, or in the lunacy wards which are not occupied both by day and night, as well as in a few other instances.

‡ Dependant upon whether a third row of beds may be properly placed there.

2. There should be a few spare wards to meet periods of great pressure.

3. There should be convalescent day rooms; one or two for the men, and one or two for the women, one for lying-in cases, and two for the lunatics. They need be only sufficiently large to comfortably accommodate those sick cases who are able to leave their bed rooms during a part of the day. They should be fitted up with comfort.

4. The dead-house, and other sources of offensive smells, should be removed from beneath the ward No. 38.

5. Wards Nos. 35, 36, and 37, should no longer be used as dormitories, but modified and appropriated for day rooms, or some other useful purposes. Wards Nos. 32 and 33 are unfit for use by day and night, and should be raised or closed.

6. The ventilators throughout the workhouse should be kept open night and day, by removing the shutters and covering the openings on the inner side with finely perforated zinc. The windows on the staircases and corridors should be permanently plugged open to the



the extent of one inch, or the upper sash should be permanently fixed in an open state, and a piece of perforated zinc three inches in depth placed at the upper part to cover in the opening. No reliance should be placed upon the windows in the wards for night ventilation.

6½. The drainage of the workhouse should be rendered satisfactory.

7. The ventilation of the wards which I have already indicated should be improved.

8. Fixed baths with a hot and cold water supply should be furnished in sufficient numbers.

9. The cistern in the west block, and all other cisterns, should be large enough to supply water to the water-closets and lavatories at all times.

10. More lavatories are needed.

11. A separate water-closet should be provided for the use of the syphilitic cases; and a few other closets are needed in different parts of the workhouse.

12. The syphilitic cases should, for the purposes of classification, be kept apart from the others, and it would be well to send as many as possible to the Lock Hospital.

13. Proper infectious wards should be provided to meet cases of urgent necessity. Scarlet fever cases should not be mixed with ordinary sick cases.

14. It is desirable that all the imbecile cases should be removed from this workhouse, unless more and better accommodation can be found for them.

15. It would be better if a larger proportion of the aged and infirm cases could be accommodated on the ground floor or first floor, so as to enable them the more readily to go into the yard. A Bath chair should be provided for their use.

16. Closets, well ventilated, in which the various utensils can be placed, are necessary.

17. Indiarubber urinals are needed for the use of some of the imbeciles and old men.

18. If the wire guards could be removed from the windows it would render the wards much more cheerful and light. Some of the windows might be fastened up if necessary.

19. Prints for the walls, illustrated and amusing periodicals and books, and some simple games, as dominoes and draughts, are needed.

20. I question if the lying-in ward is quite appropriate, and more space is needed for that class of cases.

21. Better airing ground would be of advantage, although separate day rooms for convalescents will in a degree satisfy this requirement.

21½. Generally speaking, I think that straw mattresses or cocoa-fibre matting would be useful under the flock beds, where the iron bedsteads have not sacking.

22. There should be paid female nurses in charge of both male and female cases, with unpaid helpers attached to each ward. Probably four paid day, and two or three paid night nurses, would suffice for the women's side; and three paid day, and one or two paid night nurses, for the mens' side.

No unpaid helper should be set apart for this purpose who cannot read writing and print, and who is not fairly able and of good character. The administration of medicines should be confided to the paid nurses only, and properly graduated measures should be supplied, which indicate the different doses.

23. In the dispensing of medicines a printed label should be placed and kept upon each bottle.

24. It is, perhaps, an open question whether the present arrangement with the medical officer may or may not be advantageously supplanted by one which would require him to live upon the premises, and devote his whole time to the duties of his office. With the existing arrangement I think that an assistant should live upon the premises, and have his salary, and board and lodging, provided by the guardians.

## No. 2.

### ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

WE visited the workhouse of St. Saviour's, Southwark, on 5th April 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer.

This workhouse is situated south of the Thames; but the drainage is, as we were informed, and so far as we could perceive, satisfactory.

With the exception of a day room and dormitory appropriated to female imbeciles, the sick are treated in a separate, newly-constructed, and detached infirmary, and in a small house.

The sick wards devoted to female patients are seven; viz., a day room and a dormitory for imbeciles, a room for bed-ridden and mixed cases, a lying-in ward, a ward for acute cases, and a ward for the aged and infirm and bed-ridden cases, and a female convalescent ward, which is not used.

ST. SAVIOUR'S,  
SOUTHWARK.

Number of rooms.

## Appendix.

ST. SAVIOUR'S,  
SOUTHWARK.

Those for males are six in number; viz., a convalescent day room, in which there are two beds occupied by the warders, a convalescent dormitory and spare room, a ward for acute cases, and two wards for aged and infirm, and bed-ridden cases.

There is a separate kitchen, in which the food cooked in the workhouse is cut up and distributed, and the plates kept hot.

In an adjoining house are small rooms for the treatment of foul and infectious cases.

Size and general  
character.

The following are the dimensions of these several rooms, with the number of beds which we found in them:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.		Breadth.		Height.		Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	
—	Female imbeciles' day room -	40	0	16	0	9	5	21
—	Female imbeciles' dormitory -	36	0	18	3	9	6	
5	Male convalescent day room -	22	0	22	4	12	2	—
7	Male spare room - - -	21	9	21	9	13	3	—
9	Male dormitory - - -	46	0	22	4	11	3	22
17	Male sick ward - - -	56	6	23	0	11	2	23
19	Ditto - ditto - - -	56	0	22	9	11	2	23
32	Female sick ward - - -	46	7	22	2	13	0	24
26	Ditto - ditto - - -	21	4	18	6	13	0	6
								4 at most used.
20	Ditto - ditto - - -	22	10	20	9	13	0	10
24	Ditto - ditto - - -	56	0	22	10	13	0	24
22	Ditto - ditto - - -	56	0	22	10	13	0	24
12	Unoccupied - - -	31	0	22	6	12	3	—

Hence, it appears that the floor space and cubical space allowed to each person in the several wards are as follow:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.		Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>	
—	Female imbeciles' day room - - -	28	262	
—	Female imbeciles' dormitory - - -	31	297	
5	Male convalescent day-room - - -	—	—	
7	Male spare room - - -	—	—	
9	Male dormitory - - -	47	525	
17	Male sick ward - - -	56	631	
19	Ditto - ditto - - -	55	619	
32	Female sick ward - - -	43	559	
26	Ditto - ditto - - -	66	855	
20	Ditto - ditto - - -	47	616	
24	Ditto - ditto - - -	53	693	
22	Ditto - ditto - - -	53	693	
12	Unoccupied - - -	—	—	

Thus, with the exception of the wards for female imbeciles, the allowance of floor space varies from 47 to 56 feet; and of cubical space, from 525 cubic feet to 855 cubic feet for each person. The allowance for the imbeciles by night only is 31 superficial feet, and 297 cubic feet.

The rooms are, with the exception of the imbecile and foul wards, very excellent. They are sufficiently large and without projections, with sufficient windows and ventilators, and are airy. The windows, however, are not placed near enough to the floor to enable the inmates to look at the surrounding buildings and neighbourhood; and thus they take away from the cheerfulness of the rooms. The imbecile wards have windows on one side only, and are not so light and cheerful as they might be.

Bedding and furni-  
ture.

The beds and bedding throughout are very good, consisting of flock beds on iron bedsteads. The bed linen in the imbecile ward is changed only once a fortnight, and does not look of so good a colour as is desirable; but in the infirmary one sheet is changed weekly, or more frequently.

There is a table with two shelves placed between each two beds, and a long table, upon which the food is eaten, is placed in the middle. There are benches with backs and cushions, and also arm chairs. The counterpanes are new and bright.

The walls are painted. There are periodicals for the use of the sick.

There are good lavatories, baths, and water-closets, conveniently placed, and the whole infirmary



infirmary is supplied with hot water from two large boilers. Sufficient towels, soap, and waste paper are given. Small wooden tubs are provided, in which the inmates wash themselves in the lavatories.

The system of ventilation is good, and consists of ventilators at the sides, in the windows, or in the ceiling. The medical officer states that there is a little smell in No. 23 in the morning from the excretions, but it was not so at our visit, and the whole building appeared to be then well ventilated.

The imbecile wards have ventilators on both sides; but on one side they have been built up. The ventilation of these wards is not so good as is desirable.

The small foul wards in the dwelling house are badly ventilated, and require immediate attention.

The wards, bedding, and all appurtenances were very clean.

There is only one paid nurse for the detached infirmary; but there are two assistants, who receive 1s. per week, clothes and extras, and are not regarded as paupers; and there are two unpaid assistants to each ward. There is also a nurse in the lying-in ward, who receives 2s. 6d. and extras weekly. One woman and one man are allotted as night nurses for the ordinary sick, and one as night nurse for the imbeciles, and they are not paid.

All who administer the medicines can read.

The medical officer does not reside within the workhouse. There is an average number of about 137 patients, and for his services and his attendance twice a day, he receives 100*l.* per year, without any extra fees. The drugs are not found by the guardians, neither do they provide a dispenser. A few of the more important medicines are kept at the workhouse for urgent cases, but the medicine, to the extent of about 20 bottles daily, is dispensed at his own residence. There were 11 cases of fractures of arms and legs in the infirmary last year, and as many of the cases have contracted ague during the hopping season, the cost of quinine alone has amounted to 13*l.* yearly.\* The total cost of the drugs used at the workhouse amounts to the very large sum of 53*l.* yearly.

Noisy and dirty imbecile cases are removed from the workhouse to an asylum, and the male inmates of that class, who are now in the workhouse, are very properly mixed with the ordinary inmates, and are not in any degree disagreeable. Fever and infectious cases are sent to the hospitals.

Whatever diets, comforts and medical appliances are ordered by him are provided, and they are sufficient.

The following are the recommendations which I have to offer respecting this workhouse :

1. The ventilation of the imbecile wards should be improved by placing ventilators in the ceiling in communication with the outer air, and, if possible, the ventilators now built up should be made to communicate with an air conduit leading to the chimney, or to the outer air.

The small, foul, and infectious wards should be ventilated by ventilators connecting with the corridors, or placed in the ordinary walls of the wards, or the partitions between the rooms should be removed, and two small rooms made into one. Perforated glass should be placed in the windows, or air-bricks inserted in the walls which communicate with the outer air.

Perforated glass is required in the lying-in rooms.

2. Iron or zinc basins should be provided in the lavatories, instead of wooden tubs.

3. Prints, and amusing illustrated books or periodicals, and simple games should be provided.

4. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in the different dormitories :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
—	Female imbeciles - -	—	32	Female sick ward - -	16
—	Female dormitory - -	—	26	Ditto - ditto - -	6
9	Male Dormitory - -	—	20	Ditto - ditto - -	8
17	Male Sick Ward - -	18 to 20	24	Ditto - ditto - -	18 to 20
19	Ditto - ditto - -	15 to 20	22	Ditto - ditto - -	18 to 20

5. The remuneration of the medical officer should be increased. The drugs used in the workhouse should be found by the guardians, and a dispenser also provided by them, or some arrangement made with the medical officer to provide one.

6. There should be four paid day nurses, and two paid night nurses, with unpaid helpers in the various wards.

7. An improvement is needed in reference to the plates, and the conveyance of food to the imbecile inmates.

8. The windows of the infirmary should be lowered if possible.

\* These are very unusual occurrences in the metropolitan workhouses.

No. 3.

BERMONDSEY.

**BERMONDSEY.** WE visited the Bermondsey workhouse on 5th April 1866, and were accompanied throughout by the medical officer.

This workhouse is placed upon the south side of the river, and is below high water-mark. We were informed that the water comes into the basement with the tide to the extent of a foot in depth, but no evidence of this was presented to us by sight or smell. It is contiguous to a skinner's and tanner's yard. There is a tolerably large open space enclosed by the buildings; and there are yards of the following dimensions, viz. :—

AIRING YARDS.

Men's yard	-	-	-	-	-	470 sup. yards.
Women's yard	-	-	-	-	-	503 " "
Boys' yard	-	-	-	-	-	163 " "
Girls' yard	-	-	-	-	-	182 " "
TOTAL - - -						1,318 Area in Sup. Yards.

**Number of Beds.** The sick wards for the most part occupy the whole of a large range of buildings, placed upon one side of the quadrangle; but some are mixed up with the rooms of the ordinary inmates.

The number of the sick wards may be variously stated, since in some instances two or three communicating wards have only one number, but I state them as 16.

The following are the measurements of the various wards, with the number of beds which they at present contain, many of which, as in wards 12 and 13, are now vacant:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.		Breadth.		Height.		Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	
2	Male sick and infirm	22	9	23	0	10	6	10
3	Ditto - ditto	28	9	23	0	10	6	12
23	Male infirmary	46	0	20	9	8	0	14
23	Ditto - ditto	19	6	9	6	8	0	3
23	Male (nurse's room)	13	9	9	0	8	0	—
24	Ditto - ditto	15	10	20	0	8	0	6
20	Female infirmary	30	9	19	6	8	0	20
20	Ditto - ditto	28	0	19	6	8	0	
22	Ditto - ditto	25	6	22	3	10	0	
5	Ditto - ditto	10	6	14	3	9	5	—
5	Ditto - ditto	19	6	16	4	9	5	—
31	Ditto - ditto	41	3	19	10	9	0	15
30	Ditto - ditto	53	0	25	0	10	0	24
9	Male infirmary	20	0	15	7	9	2	6
10	Ditto - ditto	46	0	20	0	9	5	27
		26	0	13	0	9	5	
11	Ditto - ditto	21	0	15	10	9	0	—
12	Ditto - ditto	44	0	20	9	9	0	73
		34	4	14	0	9	0	
		70	6	20	9	9	0	
12 (a)	Ditto - ditto	25	0	21	3	10	0	12
13	Ditto - ditto	31	9	25	0	10	2	19
36	Ditto - ditto	55	9	28	6	9	9	26

The following is the floor space and cubical space allowed for each bed, and shows that the former varies from 42 to 71 superficial feet; and the latter from 352 to 709 cubic feet.



No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
2	Male sick and infirm - - - - -	52	549
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	55	579
23	Male infirmary - - - - -	68	545
23	Ditto - - - - -	62	494
23	Male (nurses room) - - - - -	—	—
24	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	53	422
20	Female infirmary - - - - -	57	458
20	Ditto - ditto - - - - -		
22	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	71	709
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	—	—
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	—	—
31	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	55	491
30	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	55	552
9	Male infirmary - - - - -	52	476
10	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	439
11	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	—	—
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	39	352
12 (a)	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	443
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	425
36	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	61	596

Hence there are nine wards in which there is not the cubical space required by the Poor Law Board.

There are not any wards especially appropriated to acute cases ; neither are there any infectious wards, since cases of fever and small-pox are sent to the hospitals. If a case of scarlet fever were to occur it must at present be placed with ordinary cases. There are not any separate imbecile wards, but the cases of that class, amounting to about 18, are mixed with the other inmates. There are not any convalescent day rooms.

The size and general character of the sick wards vary much, but with some exceptions they are good, light, and airy. The exceptions are as follow :

Size and general character.

- 1. Nos. 2 and 8, appropriated to aged and infirm males, are upon the ground floor, and have windows on one side only. They are dark, close, and somewhat repelling, and unfit for their present use.
- 2. The lying-in ward is divided into two parts, and is small and close.
- 3. No. 12 is an exceedingly long ward, and on that account does not look comfortable.
- 4. No. 36 is wider than is necessary.

With the exception of Nos. 2 and 3, and a small room or two, there are windows on both sides of the wards.

The beds and bedding throughout the workhouse are good, viz., flock beds, upon iron bedsteads, with sacking or laths. There are not any mattresses.

Bedding and furniture.

There are not any cupboards in the wards. There are benches, with backs and cushions, and some chairs. The rugs are old looking. There are very few prints upon the walls, or illustrated periodicals and books upon the tables.

The lavatories are not numerous; and the washhand basins, although clean, are dirty looking. Pottery washhand basins are provided for those who wash themselves in the wards.

Water-closets are provided, and night-stools are placed in each room. There are also bath rooms. There is a separate cooking kitchen for the use of the sick and others for washing up.

Every part of the wards, linen and appurtenances are kept clean ; but the linen is not of very good colour.

Cleanliness.

The ventilation is defective in several of the rooms.

Ventilation.

In Nos. 2 and 3 ventilation is provided for by perforated glass in the windows, on one side of the room, and by long square wooden tubes on the other side, which run through the upper rooms to the roof.

The air of these rooms is not fresh, but is close.

The lying-in ward is ill-ventilated, and is close.

Nos. 9, 10 and 11 wards did not smell fresh and sweet.

In the other rooms there are large tubes passing through the ceiling, and communicating with the outer air, at the bottom of which is a gas jet.

There are also some of Sir John Walsham's tubes ; and air-brick ventilators are placed near the bottom of the floors, all of which were closed.

There is only one paid nurse, and she has also to perform the duties of assistant matron. One day nurse, one helper, and one night nurse, are allotted to the infirmary wards on both the men's and women's side. Other nurses of a similar class are devoted to the lying-in wards

Nursing.

## Appendix.

BERMONDSEY.

Medical Officer.

wards and other wards. They are unpaid, and according to the regulations all should be able to read; but one, at least, could not read.

The medical officer attends once, and oftentimes thrice daily, and devotes about two hours each day to the discharge of his duties. He has also a small district which he holds apart from these duties.

The guardians now supply cod-liver oil, quinine, and iodide of potassium, but do not pay a dispenser. The salary of the medical officer is 80*l.*, with about 33*l.* for extras, besides 20*l.* and 15*l.* for extras for his services as district medical officer.

He is of opinion that the acute cases do not suffer from being mixed with others; and also that the general inmates do not suffer from the imbeciles being mixed with them. A larger and better lying-in room is needed to meet the wants of about 46 cases yearly. There are sufficient water-closets.

There is no disadvantage to the patients in being placed in the very long ward (No. 12). The ventilation of the several wards is generally good, and the air sweet at night. Whatever food, comforts and medical appliances are ordered by him are always at once supplied, and there is an abundant supply of the latter for immediate use.

Recommendations.

The recommendations which I have to make in reference to this workhouse are as follow:—

1. Wards No. 2 and 3 are not fit dormitories for the sick, and their use should be discontinued, but they might be proper as day or work rooms.

2. The air-brick ventilators in the walls should be always kept open, but covered with finely perforated zinc, either on the inside only, or on both sides.

The ventilation of the lying-in ward, and of the other wards before indicated, should be greatly improved by the use of the air tubes with gas jet (as in other rooms), or by perforated glass in the windows, or by air-bricks covered with perforated zinc. The ventilators which are placed in some of the windows should be kept open to a small extent both night and day.

3. A larger, more airy, lighter, and more cheerful lying-in room should be provided.

4. More lavatories and chairs are needed; as also prints, illustrated periodicals, and amusing books, and simple games.

5. The drainage should receive proper attention.

6. The long room. No. 12, should be divided into two or three convenient rooms.

7. Mattresses, or cocoa-fibre matting, should be placed under the flock beds, and particularly on the Crimean bedsteads with their unyielding iron bottom.

8. A constant supply of water should be provided to the water-closet attached to Ward No. 36.

9. Four paid nurses should be appointed for the day, and two or three for the night, with additional helpers, unpaid, obtained from the inmates in each ward.

10. The guardians should provide all the drugs required for the use of the inmates (and probably also for the district, held by the same medical officer), and increase the salary of the medical officer.

11. One day-room for each sex should be provided.

12. More chairs would be useful.

13. The number of beds which should be placed in each room is as follows:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
2	Male, sick and infirm - -	8	5	Female infirmary - -	—
3	Ditto - ditto - -	10	31	Ditto - ditto - -	12 or 13
23	Male infirmary - -	12 to 14	30	Ditto - ditto - -	18
23	Ditto - ditto - -	—	9	Male infirmary - -	3 or 4
23	Male (nurse's room) - -	—	10	Ditto - ditto - -	22 or 23
24	Ditto - ditto - -	6	11	Ditto - ditto - -	—
20	Female infirmary - -	8 or 9	12	Ditto - ditto - -	46
20	Ditto - ditto - -	8	12 (a)	Ditto - ditto - -	8 or 9
22	Ditto - ditto - -	8	13	Ditto - ditto - -	10 or 12
5	Ditto - ditto - -	2	36	Ditto - ditto - -	18 or 20



## No. 4.

## ST. OLAVE'S, SOUTHWARK.

ST. OLAVE'S  
SOUTHWARK.

WE visited this workhouse on April 6th, 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer.

The position of St. Olave's Workhouse is on the south side of the Thames; but its drainage is said to be very good, and the air surrounding it has been much improved by the removal of many small houses and sheds.

The Infirmary consists of a block of buildings, which although adjoining the body of the workhouse, is scarcely inferior to a detached infirmary. The wards are almost, without exception, well lit, airy, and cheerful. They are 11 in number, of which four are devoted to men, viz: two to aged and infirm, one to acute cases, and one to ulcerated legs and itch cases; and six to women, viz: one lying-in ward, one nursery, one for more acute cases, one for helpless cases, and a foul ward for cases of itch and syphilis. Those for men afflicted with ulcerated legs and itch are found in the basement, and are necessarily much darker than the others, but they have an open and dry area on both sides.

The following are the dimensions of the several wards, and the number of beds which they contain:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	No. of Beds.
		<i>Ft. In.</i>	<i>Ft. In.</i>	<i>Ft. In.</i>	
6	Men, aged and infirm - -	23 0	18 3	11 0	7
58	Ditto ditto - -	21 6	18 3	11 0	7
	Men's sick ward - -	42 6	17 6	11 0	15
	Women's lying-in ward - -	20 3	18 4	11 0	7
	Women's sick ward - -	61 0	17 4	11 0	21
70	Women's (nursery) - -	31 9	18 0	11 0	10
71	Women's sick ward - -	31 6	18 0	11 0	9
	Women's itch ward - -	10 0	12 6	11 0	2
	Women's venereal ward - -	9 0	12 6	11 0	2
82	(Basement) men's sleeping ward - -	21 9	17 9	9 2	6
82a	Men's itch ward - -	22 9	17 9	9 2	3
	Women (helpless) - -	18 10	20 4	10 1	{ 3 double.* 2 single.

\* Not always occupied by two persons.

Thus the height of the rooms is 11 feet., and the breadth about 18 feet, except in the foul wards.

The floor space and the cubical space allotted to each sick person are as follows:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		Superficial Feet.	Cubic Feet.
6	Men, aged and infirm - - - -	60	660
58	Ditto ditto - - - -	56	617
	Men's sick ward - - - -	50	545
	Women's lying-in ward - - - -	53	583
	Women's sick ward - - - -	50	554
70	Women's (nursery) - - - -	57	629
71	Women's sick ward - - - -	63	693
	Women's itch ward - - - -	63	688
	Women's venereal ward - - - -	56	619
82	(Basement) men's sleeping ward - - - -	—	—
82a	Men's itch ward - - - -	81	740
	Women (helpless) - - - -	—	—

Hence the floor space varies from 50 to 63 superficial feet, and the cubical space from 554 to 688 cubic feet.

There are not any day-rooms for convalescents nor any infectious wards. Infectious cases are sent to the hospitals. Cases of scarlet fever would be kept separate

## Appendix.

ST. OLAVE'S  
SOUTHWARK.

## Bedding and Furniture.

The beds and bedding are very good, and consist of flock beds sufficiently filled, placed upon iron bedsteads with laths or sacking.

The beds are fitted to hold one person only, except in the helpless women's ward, where they are wider, and sometimes two persons sleep in one bed. One bed in the itch ward was too short for a man.

There are short benches placed between the beds, and a few chairs and benches are found in the rooms. There are baths, but without hot-water taps, so that hot water must be carried to them. There are lavatories and water-closets; and one of the latter had been out of order for perhaps two years, and was kept clean by water being thrown down it.

The inmates wash in white pottery wash-hand basins. Night stools are placed in each ward; and the pan is cleansed with hot water. Chloride of lime is provided in the surgery, but had not been recently asked for. Whenever there was a bad smell it was obtained. Tin plates only are provided for food.

There are not benches with backs, but there are arm chairs.

## Cleanliness.

The wards, linen, tables, and all other articles are very clean. One sheet and pillow case are changed every week. The lying-in bed is defended by blankets, and not by waterproof sheeting; and hence is not without stain, although fairly clean.

## Ventilation.

The ventilation of the whole of the wards is in general good. It is effected by windows, open fire-places, perforated glass placed in the windows, and ventilators placed in the roof. That of the men's sick ward was not so good as it should be.

## Nursing.

There is no paid nurse; but an unpaid day nurse and assistant are appropriated to almost every ward. There are not any special night nurses, but an inmate is appointed to any case which requires attention. They are allowed meat daily, beer, tea, and sugar; and the women have a distinctive dress. The matron superintends the nursery on the female, and the master on the male side. One (or more) of the nurses was unable to read.

## Medical Officer.

The medical officer is resident; and in addition to these duties, he attends to the sick in a small district, and is not allowed private practice.

There are about 50 cases under his care (including about 15 midwifery cases yearly), which occupy him about one hour daily. He also sees 20 to 30 persons daily at their own homes, and twice that number at the dispensary attached to the workhouse. This duty is not, in his opinion, too much.

The Guardians find drugs both for the workhouse and the district; and the medical officer receives for the two sets of duties 120*l.* a year salary, with board, lodging, and washing, and about 15*l.* yearly as extras for vaccination and lunacy cases.

He dispenses all the medicines, and gives it to the different nurses; and as some of the latter cannot read, he has known a wrong dose to be given, or the medicine given at a wrong interval; but he has not known the wrong medicine given to a patient. Whatever food, stimulants, and medical appliances are ordered by him for the sick, are readily provided by the guardians.

He does not think that his salary is sufficient to induce a medical gentleman to retain the office permanently. His predecessor, however, remained three years, and left from illness; and the previous occupant of the office held it 10 years.

There are more admissions in the winter than the infirmary can accommodate; and then one or two persons must be placed in the ordinary wards.

The imbeciles, both male and female, are properly mixed with the other inmates. When any noisy or dirty case occurs, it is sent to an asylum.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse.

1. Two paid day nurses and one paid night nurse should be appointed, and such unpaid helpers in each ward as may be needed.

2. The ventilators should be kept open, and new ones placed in some of the wards.

3. A small day-room for each sex should be provided.

4. Hot-water pipes should be attached to the bath, and a plentiful supply of hot water be kept at hand.

5. The water-closets should be repaired.

6. Tin plates should be supplanted by crockery.

7. Waterproof sheeting should be supplied to the lying-in beds.

8. It is not fitting that any cases of disease should be placed in a basement. These rooms are kept very clean, and are well ventilated, and the inmates do not object to them.

So long as they are in use some matting should be placed upon the cement floors. A proper sized bedstead should be placed in the itch ward.

9. If it be thought desirable that the medical officer should remain permanently, it will be needful to increase the salary to at least 200 *l.*, besides extras, and with existing arrangements I think it should be increased.

10. Two adults should not be placed in one bed.

11. More accommodation is needed in the winter time.



12. The number of beds which should be placed in each room is as follows :—

Appendix.  
ST. OLAVE'S  
SOUTHWARK.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
6	Men aged and infirm - -	7		Womens' itch ward - -	2
58	Ditto ditto - -	7		Women's venereal ward - -	2
	Men's sick ward - -	12 to 14	82	(Basement) men's sleeping ward.	—
	Women's lying-in ward - -	6			
	Women's sick ward - -	18 to 20	82a	Men's itch ward - -	6
70	Women's (nursery) - -	8		Women (helpless) - -	6
71	Women's sick ward - -	8			

No. 5.

ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR.

WE visited this workhouse on 6 April 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer and the master.

ST. GEORGE-THE-  
MARTYR.

This workhouse is situate on the south side of the Thames, and is surrounded by small houses, and close courts and streets. The drainage is said to be now good, and all the drains and sinks are properly trapped.

The infirmary is neither a detached nor a separate building, but consists of rooms in different positions, and mixed up, more or less, with the wards of the ordinary inmates.

There are not any convalescent day-rooms. There are not any infectious or lunacy wards, since those classes of sick are sent to the hospitals and asylums.

Only about six cases of scarlet fever have been admitted in the course of nine or ten years; but such would be placed with other cases.

The drainage is said to be very good, and there are not any disagreeable smells.

There are 12 wards devoted to the sick, of which three are occupied by males and nine by females. Of the first three, one is appropriated to acute cases, one to general cases, and one to general cases and cases of bad legs.

Number of Beds.

Of the women's wards, one is the lying-in ward, one the nursery, two are for acute cases, one for chronic cases, one for mixed cases, one is a foul ward, one for bad legs, and one for convalescent cases.

The following are the dimensions of the several wards, with the number of beds now placed in them :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
2	Men's sick ward - - -	{ 44 9	18 6	10 0	16
		{ 24 0	10 0	2 0	
9	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 35 10	19 0	10 0	12
		{ 24 0	10 0	2 0	
8	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 32 9	18 0	10 0	12
		{ 10 0	9 0	2 0	
4	Women's lying-in ward - -	37 0	19 6	10 0	11
4	Women's sick ward - -	{ 37 8	19 3	11 0	15
		{ 16 0	10 0	2 0	
	Women's foul ward - -	17 3	18 8	9 2	8
	Nursery - - -	19 0	16 0	10 0	7
1	Women's sick ward - -	{ 45 3	19 9	10 2	19
		{ 24 0	10 0	2 0	
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	45 0	18 6	11 0	18
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	34 0	19 0	11 0	14
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	40 3	18 6	12 2	17
11	Ditto - ditto - - -	37 8	18 9	11 1	{ 14 7 double
	(Convalescent)				

Appendix.

ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR.

Hence it appears that the floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed are as follow :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. Feet.</i>	<i>Cub. Feet.</i>
2	Men's sick ward - - - - -	67	547
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	75	607
8	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	57	506
4	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	66	656
4	Women's sick ward - - - - -	59	553
	Women's foul ward - - - - -	40	324
	Nursery - - - - -	43	434
1	Women's sick ward - - - - -	59	501
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	509
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	508
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	533
11	Ditto - ditto - - - - - (Convalescent.)	50	559
	There are seven double beds, and when these are filled the space will be - - - - -	33	372

Hence it appears that the floor space and cubical space vary from 33 to 75 superficial feet, and from 524 to 656 cubic feet; and that in three wards the latter is less than the amount required by the Poor Law Board.

Size and Description. The size and general description of the rooms in this workhouse vary considerably; but a majority of them are of good size, and fairly good construction.

Two of them, Nos. 2 and 9, for men, are placed side by side with an intervening wall, and consequently have not any windows on that side. These wards are not light and cheerful enough to be satisfactory. The lying-in ward and the foul ward for women are not so good as might be desired. The convalescent ward is not so good as others; and not less than half of the beds are occupied by two persons—a practice exceedingly objectionable. Several of the other wards are good, airy, light and cheerful.

In many of the rooms the windows are so high that the inmates on the upper floor never see the surrounding buildings.

Bedding and Furniture. The bedding is not satisfactory. A very large proportion of the bedsteads are of wood, with old sacking; and we were informed that bugs abound throughout the house. The beds are fairly good, and consist of flock. The sheets are old, and not of good colour. The rugs look old.

There are dressers in each ward, on which the crockery is displayed, and tends to give a homely appearance to the room. On some of the floors there are pieces of carpet, or cocoa fibre matting.

There are benches with very upright backs, and without cushions; and the number of chairs in each room is not large. There are also small lockers placed between the beds.

There are lavatories, water closets, and night chairs, in perhaps sufficient number; and proper pottery wash-hand basins are provided, and used by the inmates.

Cleanliness. There is a good supply of framed prints hanging upon the walls of almost all the rooms. Except the presence of bugs, the wards, linen, tables, dressers, crockery, and all appurtenances are kept clean.

The labour bed in the lying-in ward was stained on account of the waterproof sheeting being too narrow.

The walls of the staircases, corridors, and wards are painted in the lower, and coloured in the upper part; and show in a marked manner the efforts which have recently been made to improve the condition and appearance of this workhouse.

Ventilation. The plan of ventilation, which is in use in this workhouse, is, I think, very defective. The upper part of each window, to the depth of one frame, is made to fall down to an angle of 45°; and thus leaves a triangular opening, through which air is admitted. When they are open they pour a large volume of cold air upon the inmate occupying the bed underneath; and when they are closed, as must be the case during the night, there is scarcely any ventilation. Hence, with the two extremes to choose from, it follows that the windows are generally closed.

In the wards Nos. 2 and 9 there are large openings through the ceiling to the roof, which are either covered by a shutter, or pour down volumes of sooty air, rendering the air of the rooms very disagreeable.

The staircases and corridors even smell close and smoky; and thus their value as ventilators to the wards is greatly diminished.

Nursing. There is not at this moment a paid nurse, since their only one left a week ago; but it is understood that another will be immediately appointed.

One unpaid nurse and one helper are appointed to each ward; and a female nurse is employed by day in the acute case ward on the men's side. No separate night nurses are appointed



appointed, except to the acute case ward on the women's side, and some others. All these unpaid nurses can read print.

The medical officer and his assistant attend at the workhouse daily; and devote about one hour and a-half to the duty. The salary is 80*l.*; and the extras for midwifery and lunacy cases amount to about 70*l.* The guardians provide cod-liver oil and quinine; and the cost of the other drugs is about 10*l.* per year. The average number of cases under treatment is about 150.

He did not consider his remuneration was sufficient; and was of opinion that for the guardians to supply all the drugs would not only be fairer to himself, but beneficial to the paupers.

All his directions as to diet, stimulants, and medical appliances, are readily attended to; and the supply of the latter is sufficient.

More accommodation is needed for males and females; but there has been sufficient during the present winter. There should be two day rooms. There are sufficient water closets and lavatories.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse.

Recommendations.

1. More accommodation is required, even to meet the present wants.
2. Two day rooms for convalescents are required.
3. The yard space should be enlarged.
4. The ventilation should be improved throughout the house, by wholly opening all the ventilators, and by the insertion of air bricks covered with perforated zinc.  
The present patent venetian shutter ventilators should be removed to the highest row of frames.  
In wards 2 and 9 there should, in addition, be openings made in the partition wall. The openings in the ceiling should be covered with perforated zinc, after the lofts have been well cleaned out.  
The ventilation on the staircases should be improved by making openings at the top, and by plugging the windows open to the extent of an inch.
5. All the wooden bedsteads should be removed, and replaced by iron ones with laths.
6. Chairs, and cushions to the benches are required.
7. Three paid day, and two paid night nurses should be employed; and such other help given in each ward as may be requisite.
8. The guardians should provide all the requisite drugs; and the salary of the medical officer should be increased.
9. The locality and buildings are undesirable for the treatment of sick cases, and, as more space is required, the workhouse should be removed.
10. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in the several rooms; it being understood that only one adult shall occupy a bed.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
2	Men's sick ward - - -	14 or 15		Nursery—	
9	Ditto - - - - -	12	1	Women's sick ward - - -	14 or 15
8	Ditto - - - - -	—	2	Ditto - - - - -	14 or 15
4	Women's lying-in ward - -	10 or 11	6	Ditto - - - - -	10 or 11
4	Women's sick ward - - -	12	7	Ditto - - - - -	12 or 14
	Women's foul ward - - -	4 or 5	11	Ditto - - - - -	12
				(Convalescent)	

No. 6.

## GREENWICH.

We visited this workhouse on the 18th April 1866, and were accompanied by the master, matron, and medical officer.

GREENWICH.

The guardians having determined to build a new infirmary, and being about to enter into contracts for it, it was scarcely necessary that we should inspect the existing one. As, however, the present infirmary wards will be used for ordinary inmates, the time which we have devoted to this inspection may not be altogether lost.

This workhouse is situate on the south side of the Thames, on the low land which constitutes the margin of the river; but the drainage is good. It is a large building, having at the present time 884 inmates, of whom 387 are upon the medical officer's books.

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Cases of fever and small-pox are not admitted, but are sent in a special cab to the special hospitals. Cases of scarlet fever have been extremely few; and any such arising in the workhouse would be sent to the fever hospital, when the nature of the disease had become evident. 150 imbeciles and idiots are retained here, some of whom are dirty; but destructive and violent cases are sent to an asylum. (We found a man improperly confined in a small, ill-ventilated cell, simply on account of his propensity to run away from the workhouse.) The less cleanly of this class of cases are kept in low one-storied wings, whilst the others occupy a part of the body of the workhouse. Cases of syphilis are for the most part sent to the Lock Hospital; at which institution 20 beds are placed by the Government at the disposal of the guardians. There are extremely few children retained in this workhouse.

As there is not a general hospital in the neighbourhood, the police cases are brought to the workhouse. Cases also were pointed out to us of persons whose parents were said to be possessed of ample means. Itch cases are but few, but they are kept in the vagrant wards.

The infirmary wards are 43 in number, of which 16 are devoted to imbeciles and idiots, and the remainder to the general sick. Eleven of the former are occupied by females, and five by males; and to nearly each dormitory there is a separate day room.

The general sick are placed partly in the body of the workhouse, and partly in a detached infirmary, and are not classified into acute and chronic. Those found in the body of the workhouse are the aged and infirm of both sexes, who are seen by the medical officer about once a week, and are placed upon his books almost solely because an extra diet is given to them.

The lying-in ward is also placed in the body of the workhouse.

All the rooms occupied by the aged and infirm, and the general sick, are used both by night and day; but there is a day room attached to the lying-in ward.

There is one ward in the detached infirmary which is chiefly occupied by women having diseases of a syphilitic character, and there is another which is devoted to children, but all the others are occupied by the general sick.

The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds which are now placed in the dormitories:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	No. of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
13	Imbecile women - - -	28 9	18 3	13 0	11
12	Ditto - - -	18 10	18 3	13 0	—
15	Ditto - - -	54 6	16 0	10 0	21
		6 3	9 0	10 0	
	Imbecile women, strong room -	10 0	5 6	10 0	—
3	Imbecile women, day room -	36 4	16 0	10 0	—
9	Imbecile women, bed room -	48 6	16 5	9 3	19
8	Ditto - ditto -	28 0	16 6	9 3	—
6	Imbecile women, day room -	34 0	16 6	9 3	—
39	Imbecile women, lying-in-ward.	25 10	16 6	9 3	10
37	Imbecile women, day room -	19 6	16 6	9 3	—
1	Bed room, imbecile women -	26 0	15 9	10 0	8
1a	Ditto - ditto -	18 6	17 6	10 0	9
23	Women infirm - - -	46 9	16 6	9 2	18
		8 0	6 0	9 2	
20	Ditto - - -	49 0	16 6	9 2	18
		8 0	6 0	9 2	
39	Ditto - - -	47 9	18 2	7 9	19
		47 9	12 8	3 6	
19	Ditto - - -	45 9	18 0	7 9	17
		45 9	12 6	3 6	
30	Ditto - - -	48 9	16 5	7 8	19
		48 9	11 0	4 7	
		8 0	6 0	12 3	
27	Ditto - - -	46 9	16 6	7 8	18
		46 9	11 0	4 7	
		8 0	6 0	12 3	
26	Ditto - - -	34 0	16 6	7 8	12
		34 0	11 0	4 7	
62	Infirm men - - -	46 9	16 4	7 6	19
		46 9	11 4	4 11	
59	Ditto - - -	8 0	6 0	12 5	19
		45 9	16 4	7 6	
		45 9	11 4	4 11	
43	Male imbeciles' bed room -	8 0	6 0	12 5	11
		29 0	16 0	10 1	
		5 6	6 6	10 1	
43a	Ditto - ditto -	6 6	5 6	10 1	9
		16 0	22 0	10 1	
		16 0	14 0	10 1	



No. of Wards.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose, to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
43	Male imbeciles' day room	38 6	16 0	10 1	—
91	Male imbeciles' bed room	29 0	18 0	12 9	13
„	Male imbeciles' day room	19 3	18 0	12 9	—
69	Women's infirmary	34 0	17 0	9 10	13
71	Ditto	18 10	17 0	9 10	6
72	Ditto	34 0	17 0	9 10	12
73	Ditto	18 0	17 0	9 10	6
74	Nursery	30 0	17 0	9 10	11
75	Women's sick ward	29 6	17 0	7 6	12
		29 6	12 0	4 2	
76	Ditto	17 10	17 0	7 6	7
		17 10	12 0	4 2	
77	Women's sick ward	34 0	17 0	7 6	13
		34 0	12 0	4 2	
78	Ditto - ditto	37 10	17 0	7 6	15
		37 10	12 0	4 6	
80	Imbecile women	23 6	17 0	10 0	12
80 a	Day room	18 0	17 0	9 9	—
81	Men's infirmary	34 0	17 0	9 10	13
83	Ditto	18 9	17 0	9 10	6
84	Ditto	34 0	17 0	9 10	13
85	Ditto	18 0	17 2	9 10	6
86	Ditto	29 9	17 2	9 10	12
87	Ditto	29 10	17 2	7 2	12
		29 10	12 2	4 4	
88	Ditto	17 10	16 10	10 0	6
89	Ditto	34 0	17 2	7 2	13
		34 0	12 2	4 4	

It will be observed that owing to the narrowness of the wards the gangway between the beds is only 4 to 5 feet; and that the height of the rooms is about 10 to 12 feet. The floor space, and the cubical space allotted to each bed, are as follows:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
13	Imbecile women, bed rooms	48	620
12	Ditto - ditto	—	—
15	Ditto - ditto	44	442
—	Imbecile strong room	—	—
3	Imbecile day room	—	—
9	Imbecile bed room	42	388
8	Ditto	—	—
6	Imbecile day room	—	—
39	Imbecile lying-in ward	43	394
37	Imbecile day room	—	—
1	Imbecile bed room, imbecile women	51	512
1a	Ditto - ditto	36	360
23	Women infirm	46	417
20	Ditto	48	436
39	Ditto	46	465
19	Ditto	48	493
30	Ditto	45	483
27	Ditto	46	492
26	Ditto	47	501
62	Infirm men	43	467
59	Ditto	47	461
43	Male imbeciles' bed room	45	458
43a	Male bed room	68	685
43	Male day room	—	—
91	Male bed room	40	512
„	Male day room	—	—
69	Women's infirmary	44	437
71	Ditto	53	525
72	Ditto	48	474
73	Ditto	51	502
74	Nursery	46	456
75	Women's sick ward	42	436
76	Ditto	43	452
77	Ditto	44	464
78	Ditto	43	456

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No. of Wards.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
80	Imbecile women, bed room - - - - -	33	333
80a	Day room - - - - -	—	—
81	Men's infirmary - - - - -	44	437
83	Ditto - - - - -	53	522
84	Ditto - - - - -	44	437
85	Ditto - - - - -	52	507
86	Ditto - - - - -	43	418
87	Ditto - - - - -	43	437
88	Ditto - - - - -	50	500
89	Ditto - - - - -	45	460

Hence it appears that the floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed by day and night, are from 42 to 53 superficial feet, and from 394 to 525 cubic feet; and that only in six wards is the cubical space, required by the Poor Law Board, allowed

Size of Rooms, &c.

The body of the workhouse is so constructed that there is a very long and narrow corridor running through the centre of the building from end to end, and on each side of it are the various apartments. The building is of three stories in height, and the general character of all the floors is the same, except that the uppermost rooms are built in the roof; and the uppermost corridor is of much less height than the others. Hence, in nearly every instance the windows leading to the outer air are placed on one side of the rooms only, but on the other side there are smaller windows which communicate with the corridors.

The detached imbecile wards are open to the roof, and have windows on one side only. The character of the rooms in the detached infirmary varies much, since many have windows on both sides, and are light, airy, and cheerful, whilst others have windows on one side only. Some of those which are placed in the upper story have skylights. The corridors are darkish, and the upper one is lit here and there by a skylight on each side of the central gutter. Most of the rooms are sufficiently long, but all are much too narrow. There are some small rooms which are the least desirable of any. None of the rooms are too large to be either useful or comfortable.

Bedding and general Furniture.

There are a few rooms which are not sufficiently light, but generally the narrowness of the rooms allows them to be light and cheerful, although lit from one side only. The bedding is good throughout the house, except in the idiot ward. It is of flock, placed upon iron bedsteads, with sacking or with iron laths. The bed coverings are good and sufficient. In the idiot ward the beds are of straw, and some of them very insufficiently filled.

There are small lockers in most of the rooms between the beds, and wooden chairs are found very generally. There are two rooms occupied by the nurses (one a bath room and the other a kitchen), between each two wards, which are very convenient; and in other wards there are cupboards upon and within which the crockery and other utensils are placed. There is a good supply of prints in the imbecile wards, and there are a few elsewhere. There is a supply of useful and entertaining periodicals and books, and there are some games, as dominoes and bagatelle.

Cleanliness.

There is, upon the whole, a very good supply of water-closets and lavatories, and both are kept in a very cleanly state. Night chairs are found in all the wards. Little looking-glasses are placed in the lavatories for imbeciles. The wards, bedding, furniture, &c., are almost universally clean. There is some difficulty in keeping the beds quite clean in the idiot ward, on account of the dirty habits of those inmates; and in some of their wards we found the nurses drying the wet beds at the fire, and loading the air with an urinary odour. The closets for this class, which are placed outside the building, are wet, and somewhat repulsive.

Ventilation.

The linen in the wards is kept clean. Three sheets are appropriated to each bed, and one is changed weekly. There are sufficient towels. The ventilation in this workhouse is almost universally defective, and it results from the construction already referred to. Besides the outer windows on one side (sometimes on both sides), and the open fire-places, the ventilation is dependent upon windows opening into the corridors, and upon ventilators placed in the ceilings. The former might be efficient, but in nearly every case they were shut; the latter are, alone, quite insufficient, although a current of air was passing through them. Several of the wards were close, and some very close; as, for example, Nos. 62, 83, 85, and particularly 88. Some had an urinary smell, as No. 62, and the wards for idiots and children. But very few were really fresh and unexceptionable.



The bedsteads are so made, that those on one side of the room fold up during the day, and thus, by allowing a wider gangway down the room, promote ventilation.

The ventilation in the corridors is defective. This is particularly observable in the upper ones; and at the top the skylights are not used as ventilators.

Holes have recently been bored into the lower part of the doors, which have, doubtless, improved the ventilation of those wards.

Two paid nurses have just been appointed, but have not as yet entered upon office. They are for the general sick wards on the male and female side, respectively. There are also two paid nurses in charge of female imbeciles, and one in charge of male imbeciles and idiots.

Of unpaid nurses, there is one day nurse to each ward, and usually there is a helper also.

There are no specially-appointed night nurses; but the nurses perform duty both day and night, so far as the latter may be required. Whenever an inmate is very ill, and requires attention during the night, some one is appointed to sit up, and give that attention. These nurses sleep in the wards. The unpaid assistants are allowed meat daily, with tea and sugar; and a special dress is given to the women. The cost of these extras is stated to be 3 s. per week for each person; which, if it may be fairly multiplied by the 40 assistants of various classes, would make 300 l. per year.

The medical officer attends at the workhouse at least twice daily, and devotes about six hours daily to the discharge of his duties. During the past year he paid upwards of 800 visits to the workhouse; and spent 1,000 hours within its walls.

His remuneration is 200 l. yearly, out of which he provides all drugs, except cod-liver oil and quinine, and dispenses his own medicines. He considers that the guardians should provide all the requisite drugs, and a dispenser, who might be partly employed as a clerk, or in some other capacity, and still allow him his present salary. He is of opinion that the services of a dispenser would relieve him of much disagreeable work, and would enable him to discharge his duty to the sick in three hours daily.

He orders whatever food and stimulants he thinks needful, and all are readily supplied. Medical appliances, as water beds, &c., are found readily, and in sufficient quantity.

He thinks that a separate itch ward should be provided; as also a ward in which fever cases might be temporarily placed. There ought to be a proper and separate diet, including half a pint of beer and some meat daily provided for the aged and infirm; and thus prevent the necessity of placing so large a number of this class upon his books. A few of the idiotic boys should be sent to asylums, where they might receive proper training.

He thinks that with the present defective ventilation, 700 cubic feet of air are necessary for each patient.

The following are the recommendations which I offer in reference to the infirmary wards:

1. The present detached one-storied imbecile wards should be raised; and itch and other wards placed there.

2. Care should be taken that the straw beds are kept sufficiently full; and that the waterproof sheet with a funnel should be used to all dirty cases.

3. Indiarubber urinals should be provided for the use of certain aged men and others who pass the urine involuntarily.

4. The water-closets for the imbeciles, which are placed outside the building, should be supplanted by Jennings's latrines, and the way covered over.

5. Water-closets should be provided for the lying-in ward; and for wards Nos. 19, 69, and 13.

6. Some effort should be made to improve the ventilation of the long corridors, by making cross passages open to the air; and at the top of the workhouse by placing Louvre-lights.

7. Throughout the workhouse the ventilating windows, which communicate with the corridors, should be plugged open to the extent of one inch, and kept open night and day. The number of them should be greatly increased; and no room whatever adjoining the corridor should be without them.

In many of the rooms perforated glass should be placed in one of the top panes of one or more windows; and a large opening, covered with perforated zinc, should be made over the doors; either from the staircases, or between the rooms.

The rooms, which particularly need these changes, are as follows:

Nos. 12, 13, 91, 80, imbeciles.

The darkish cells in Nos. 15 and 43.

No. 9 requires a ventilator in the wall and over the door.

No. 20 requires ventilators over the door and two windows.

Nos. 73, 76, 30, 27, 75, 74, and 78, want windows in the side of the rooms.

The Nursery, Nos. 81, 83, 85, and 86, need windows on two sides.

Nos 6 and 13 need windows, and ventilators in the roof.

Until these changes have been made no other arrangements can be satisfactory.

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8. Nearly all the rooms are much too crowded, with the present amount of ventilation, but as they will no longer be used as infirmary wards, I refrain from indicating the number of beds which they should contain.

9. The lying-in ward is too full, and a larger one should be provided. A separate but very closely adjoining labour-room should be provided; and the day-room supplied with more furniture, and made more comfortable.

10. The medical officer, master, and matron are of opinion that, with the paid nurses which have now been appointed, and the present unpaid assistants, the arrangement will be satisfactory. I cannot advise upon this point until I know the arrangements of the proposed infirmary.

11. The guardians should find the drugs for the use of the inmates. A dispenser should be appointed, who, in addition to this special duty, should act as clerk.

The salary of the medical officer should be increased, and an assistant should reside within the workhouse.

12. Proper dietaries for the aged should be devised; and no inmate should be placed upon the books of the medical officer merely for the want of this general dietary.

13. Padded wards are needed.

14. Looking-glasses and prints should be added.

15. In the new infirmary there should be day convalescent rooms.

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No. 7.

ST. MARYLEBONE.

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St. MARYLEBONE.

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WE visited the Marylebone workhouse on 10th April 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer and the master.

This is a very large establishment, which has been enlarged at various periods, until it is capable of holding about 2,000 persons. The buildings are old, and exhibit every variety of form and architecture. The site is high, healthy, and well drained.

The infirmary wards proper are placed in a detached building, called the infirmary, in which there are 29 wards, containing 305 beds, and occupied by 264 persons. Of these wards 15 are occupied by women, 10 by men, and four by children.

A class of inmates, called casual lunatics (or those who have very recently entered the workhouse, and will remain in those wards only for a short period), occupy four dormitories and two day-rooms. Idiots, imbeciles, and epileptics, on the female side, occupy two dormitories and one day-room; and those on the male side one dormitory and one day-room. There are also two surgical wards on the female, and the same number on the male side. One on the female side is devoted to cases of syphilis, and the remainder of them are occupied by medical cases of a general character. These latter are arranged in sets under different nurses, and in each set is one ward, into which the acute cases are received, and the convalescent cases are drafted to the others. Hence, in some of the wards, nearly all the patients keep their beds; whilst in others, perhaps, an equal proportion sit up.

There are also properly padded rooms for the reception of violent lunatics.

Besides these there are 14 wards placed in the body and other parts of the workhouse, apart from the infirmary, which are occupied by chronic and infirm cases. These contain about 500 cases, about 200 of whom, upon the average, are seen by the medical officer thrice a week, and are for the time under his care.

Cases of fever, scarlet fever, and small-pox, are not received into the workhouse, but are sent in a special cab to the special hospitals. Syphilitic cases are retained, but they only amount to eight women. Acute and noisy cases of lunacy are sent to asylums. Ordinary imbeciles and idiots are placed together in certain wards, and only such are placed upon the medical officer's books as are otherwise ill and temporarily need his attention.

There are day-rooms for the use of the lunatics and epileptics, but not for any other class of inmates. The corridors in the infirmary are large and light, and are well fitted to enable the inmates to take exercise. There are good yards.

The lying-in wards are two in number, and there is a separate labour ward from which the patient is wheeled in two to four hours after her confinement to lying-in ward No. 1, and in about a week she is again removed to lying-in ward No. 2.

The



The following are the dimensions of the several wards, with the number of beds which they severally contain :—

Appendix.

ST. MARYLEBONE.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
1	Females, Dorcas ward -	27 10	18 0	12 6	8
2	Ditto - ditto -	20 0	18 0	12 6	6
3	Ditto - ditto -	16 8	11 9	12 6	3
	Females, strong room -	5 9	6 9	12 6	
1	Females, imbeciles -	28 9	19 9	12 3	11
	Females, day-room -	47 6	21 9	12 3	
2	Females, imbeciles' bed - room.	44 0	18 8	12 6	21
	Females, Victoria ward -	52 0	22 0	13 9	21
	Ditto - ditto (a) -	20 0	18 0	14 0	8
	Females, Middlesex ward -	25 0	21 6	14 0	11
	Females, Princess ward -	44 0	18 8	14 0	18
	Females, Mary ward -	39 0	19 9	14 0	17
	Females, London ward -	38 9	21 9	14 0	15
1	Lying-in ward - - -	23 3	22 6	14 0	8
2	Lying-in convalescent ward	30 0	22 6	14 0	12
	Males, Llanover ward -	28 0	18 3	14 0	9
	Males, Norwich ward -	20 0	18 0	14 0	7
	Ditto - ditto (a) -	26 0	18 0	14 0	10
	Males, Bell ward - - -	27 9	18 0	14 0	9
	Males, Mayo ward - - -	36 0	18 0	14 0	12
	Males, Shaftesbury ward -	27 6	18 6	14 0	9
	Males, Stuart ward - - -	27 6	18 6	14 0	10
	Children, Cambridge ward -	36 0	18 6	11 0	15
	Children, Oxford ward -	36 0	18 6	11 0	15
	Males, imbeciles, St. Luke's ward.	36 0	18 0	12 3	10
	Males, sick and infirm, Prince's ward.	27 6	18 0	12 6	10
	Males, Albert ward - - -	27 6	18 0	12 6	8
	Boys, Alfred ward - - -	36 0	18 0	12 6	15
	Males, sick, St. George's ward.	27 6	18 0	12 6	11
4 b	Males, chronic cases and in- firm.	107 0	26 0	10 10	44
5 b	Ditto - - ditto - - -	107 0	26 0	9 11	46
27 a	Females, aged and infirm - {	52 4	19 10	14 0	21
		6 0	4 0	14 0	
28 a	Females, chronic cases and infirm.	41 0	25 10	9 0	17
	Females, chronic cases and infirm (room adjoining).	14 0	9 7	9 0	4
18 a	Females, chronic cases and infirm.	39 3	18 6	9 9	17
21 a	Ditto - - - ditto -	66 3	19 9	14 0	28
19 a	Ditto - - - ditto -	30 0	19 6	14 0	12
20 a	Ditto - - - ditto -	37 6	20 0	14 0	14
6 a	Females, chronic cases and infirm (Irish ward).	46 0	14 6	11 9	38
4 a	Females, chronic cases and infirm.	47 0	14 0	10 9	14
3 a	Ditto - - - ditto -	47 0	14 0	10 9	14
	Ditto - - - ditto -	26 0	14 0	10 9	7

It will be observed that the usual breadth and height of the infirmary rooms are 18 feet to 23 feet, and 12 feet to 14 feet.

## Appendix.

The amount of floor space, and cubical space, allotted to each bed is as follows:—

## ST. MARYLEBONE.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
1	Females, Dorcas ward - - - - -	63	783
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	60	750
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	65	816
	Females strong-room - - - - -	—	—
1	Females, imbeciles' bedroom - - - - -	52	632
	Females, dayroom - - - - -	—	—
2	Females, imbeciles bedroom - - - - -	39	489
	Females, Victoria ward - - - - -	54	749
	Females, Victoria ward (a) - - - - -	45	630
	Females, Middlesex ward - - - - -	49	684
	Females, Princess ward - - - - -	46	639
	Females, Mary ward - - - - -	45	635
	Females, London ward - - - - -	56	787
1	Lying-in ward - - - - -	65	915
2	Lying-in convalescent - - - - -	56	788
	Males, Llanover ward - - - - -	57	795
	Males, Norwich ward - - - - -	51	720
	Males, Norwich ward (a) - - - - -	47	655
	Males, Bell ward - - - - -	56	777
	Males, Mayo ward - - - - -	54	756
	Males, Shaftesbury ward - - - - -	57	791
	Males, Stuart ward - - - - -	51	712
	Children, Cambridge ward - - - - -	44	488
	Children, Oxford ward - - - - -	44	488
	Males, imbeciles, St. Luke's ward - - - - -	65	794
	Males, sick and infirm, Prince's ward - - - - -	50	619
	Males, Albert ward - - - - -	62	773
	Boys, Alfred ward - - - - -	43	540
	Males, sick, St. George's ward - - - - -	45	562
4 b	Males, chronic cases and infirm ward - - - - -	63	685
5 b	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	60	600
27 a	Females, aged and infirm ward - - - - -	51	708
28 a	Females, chronic cases and infirm ward - - - - -	62	561
	Females, chronic cases and infirm (room adjoining) ward - - - - -	34	302
18 a	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - -	43	416
21 a	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - -	47	654
19 a	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - -	49	683
20 a	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - -	54	750
6 a	Females, chronic cases and infirm (Irish ward) - - - - -	18	206
4 a	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - -	47	505
3 a	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - -	47	505
3 a	Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - -	52	559

Hence the usual floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are 43 to 63 superficial feet, and 488 to 794 cubic feet; but one ward allows so little as 18 superficial and 206 cubic feet. In only two of 38 wards is the cubical space less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

Size of rooms, and general character.

The size of the rooms is in general large, and they are wide and lofty. Those in the infirmary are, in this respect, unexceptionable, whilst some in the body of the workhouse, as those for male convalescents (which were formerly used as a schoolroom), are too long to look comfortable, and too wide to enable the whole space to be used in the most economical manner.

There are a few rooms, as 6 a, which are very long and narrow; and one, 22 a, which is very low, and about to be raised.

Some of the rooms have outer windows on both sides, but a large majority have windows on one side only. As, however, the windows are generally very large and the rooms very lofty, the wards are light and cheerful. A few of the rooms are somewhat dark; and some are unnecessarily darkened by the substitution of wooden boards for glass panes in the lower sash.

As an expression, however, of very general application, it may be stated that the rooms are excellent, large, airy, and cheerful.

The rooms to which exception can be taken are chiefly occupying the south side block of buildings, some of which are very close and others dark. Some of these are occupied solely by Irish inmates. St. Luke's ward for casual lunatics is somewhat dark; as are also 17 a, 18 a, and 19 a, occupied by the aged and infirm.

Bedding and furniture.

The bedding is universally good, consisting of flock beds (some are of coir) upon iron bedsteads, with either iron laths or sacking. There is a special machine used here, by which the flock is teazed; and the bedding is frequently passed through the process. The linen and bed covering is good, and sufficient.

There



There are little lockers between the beds, book-shelves placed against the walls, windsor chairs, prints or Scripture sentences placed upon the walls, and particularly in the lunatic wards, cupboard, and all needful furniture. There are night chairs in each room, and water closets and lavatories in suitable places. Two fixed baths with hot and cold water are placed upon the basement floor in the infirmary, and two others are about to be placed upon the first floor. There are also moveable baths of various kinds.

The inmates wash in pottery basins or pans, and the children are washed in pans and baths.

Illustrated periodicals, newspapers, and books are placed in, and circulated through, the different wards. There is a thermometer in each ward. There are games of dominoes, &c. in the general wards, and of bagatelle, &c. in the imbecile wards. There are screens in every room.

The cleanliness of the linen, floors, tables, and furniture in general is all that could be desired. One sheet is changed weekly; and each inmate, in addition to the other towels in general use, has separate towels, comb and brush, and piece of soap. The lavatories and water closets are kept quite clean. Each child is washed in a separate quantity of clean water. A few parts of the infirmary appeared to require painting, and have thereby lessened somewhat the appearance of cleanliness. Each inmate, in addition to the clothing of the house, has list slippers with thick soles, which are kept clean.

The crockery, pewter and tin foot-warmers, shower baths, and drinking utensils, are kept exceedingly bright and clean, and give an agreeable look to the wards.

The ventilation is maintained by windows, open fire-places, and ventilators of large size placed in the walls at the upper part, and others of small size placed in the floor. Ventilation.

In a large number of wards, in which the outer windows are on one side only, there are ventilators placed on the opposite side, or at one or both of the ends of the room; and such rooms are kept in a very satisfactory state. There are, however, some in which there is neither window nor ventilator on one side, or at one or both ends of the room. There are others, as in 6 A., where ventilators placed on one side have been left with openings so large and undefended, that volumes of cold air have poured in, with the wind in that direction; and as a result the ventilators have been boarded up. In the same, and in other rooms, panes of perforated zinc have been placed in the windows; and these have in like manner been boarded up, or painted over. In several of such cases there are two perforated panes of zinc in the same window, and placed side by side; and have thus allowed too large an admission of air at one place.

In a few rooms there is perforated glass in the windows, or there are sky-lights, which may be opened, and ventilate the rooms.

Princesses ward, St. George's, surgical ward, the day-room for idiots and imbeciles, St. Luke's ward for casual lunatics, 4 A., 6 A., 17 A., 18 A., 19 A., and perhaps few others, need improvement in ventilation. Victoria ward, No. 1, smells of poultices, although it is a large and very airy ward.

With the exception, however, of the south side block of buildings, before referred to, there are not any very marked defects in ventilation.

In the infirmary proper, with an average of about 260 patients in the winter, and 150 in the summer, there is one paid upper nurse, or matron, and 10 paid nurses. Of the latter, one attends to the male surgical wards; one to the female surgical wards; two to the male medical wards; one to the female medical wards; two to the insane; one to the boys, and one to the girls, who remain here preparatory to being sent to the schools at Southall, and one to the lying-in-ward. Nursing.

There is also in the lying-in department a paid midwife, and one paid nurse for the infants.

There is also one female paid nurse in charge of the imbeciles and idiots, and two paid superintendents of nurses in the wards for male and female chronic and infirm cases, and one paid nurse in the nursery.

There are thus 17 paid persons in charge of the cases, and they are assisted by from one to three unpaid helpers in each ward.

The night nurses are at this moment unpaid, but two night nurses have been elected. They will be chiefly occupied in the wards where the most recent and acute cases have been admitted; but will also go through every ward in the infirmary in a routine to be now established.

The male nurse in charge of males receives 30*l.*, the female nurse in charge of males 20*l.*, the ordinary nurses from 12*l.* to 14*l.*, the midwife 30 *l.* to 35 *l.*, the superintendents of chronic cases 20*l.*, and the night nurses 20*l.* each yearly, besides rooms properly furnished and rations. The unpaid nurses have certain extras in food allowed them, and they are selected by the matron.

The medical officer pays the salary of a resident assistant, and of a non-resident dispenser, and provides all drugs. He attends at the workhouse himself always from about 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and usually during about six hours daily. He regards this as his principal duty, and his private practice as of secondary importance. Medical officer.

His salary is 950*l.* per year, and out of this he informed us that he pays about 300*l.* per year for drugs, and about 200*l.* per year for the dispenser and assistant. The guardians provide suitable rooms, board, and waiting for the resident assistant. The medical officer is satisfied with this arrangement, and believes that it is advantageous to the poor, to the guardians, and to himself.

Besides the cases in the infirmary, amounting to 264 now, and to about 150 in the summer,

## Appendix.

## ST. MARYLEBONE.

summer, there are about 200 cases in the various chronic and infirm wards, which require a certain amount of attention. There are also about 88 imbeciles and epileptics in the house, but not upon his books, some of whom are occasionally ill.

In the arrangement of the cases, all persons admitted to the workhouse pass through the infirmary, and are there cured, or discharged, or die, or are passed to the chronic wards; and about one-sixth of the whole, or 40 of the 240 present cases, are such as would be termed hospital cases. There may be about one case of pneumonia, and other equally serious disease weekly.

In reference to the resident assistant, he thinks that the same salary and emoluments would always obtain a good man, and retain him for several years.

## Nursing.

The present arrangements as to nursing is satisfactory, and he thinks that there should always be a staff of unpaid assistants, to act both night and day, under the paid nurses. The unpaid nurses, so long as they are not allowed to leave the workhouse, are steady and reliable.

The proportion of paid nurses to the number of patients, must vary with the relative numbers of acute and chronic cases. In the infirmary, which excludes permanently chronic cases, there is a paid nurse to about every 28 ordinary cases (some nurses, having charge of special cases, have fewer patients under their care), but if the chronic and acute cases were mixed together, one to about 70 would probably be sufficient. He thinks that two paid night nurses will suffice for the whole.

## Recommendations.

The following are the few recommendations which I have to make in reference to this workhouse.

1. The ventilation should be improved in the wards which I have mentioned. All the ventilators should be kept open night and day, and if they are too many (as the instance of two perforated zinc panes in one window) some should be closed; and if the volume of air which they admit is too large, they should be covered with perforated zinc.

New ventilators should be added, similar to those now in use; and in a few places perforated glass should be inserted in the windows.

2. The state of the south side block of buildings should be greatly improved or rebuilt.

The use of 6 A. should be discontinued by day, or the number of inmates very greatly reduced.

3. An open fire-grate is to be supplied to the male casual lunatics' ward.

4. The following is the number of beds which should be allowed in each of the wards:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purposes to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
1	Females, Dorcas ward - -	8		Males, sick and infirm, Princes ward.	8 or 9
2	Ditto - ditto - -	6		Males, Albert ward - -	8 or 9
3	Ditto - ditto - -	3		Boys, Alfred ward - -	-
1	Females, strong room - -	-		Males, sick, St. George's ward	8 or 9
	Females, imbeciles - -	-		Males, chronic cases and infirm.	36
	Females, day-room - -	-		Ditto - ditto - -	36
2	Females, imbeciles' bedroom -	-		Females, aged and infirm -	18
	Females, Victoria ward -	18	4 b	Females, chronic cases and infirm.	14
	Ditto - ditto (a) - -	6		Females, chronic cases and infirm (room adjoining).	4
	Females, Middlesex ward -	8	5 b	Females, chronic cases and infirm	12 or 14
	Females, Princess ward -	14		Ditto - ditto - -	22
	Females, Mary ward -	12 or 14	27 a	Ditto - ditto - -	10
	Females, London ward -	12 or 14	28 a	Ditto - ditto - -	12 or 13
1	Lying-in ward - -	8		Females, chronic cases and infirm (Irish ward).	14 or 15
2	Lying-in, convalescent ward -	10		Females, chronic cases and infirm.	14
	Males, Llanover ward - -	9		Ditto - ditto - -	14
	Males, Norwich ward - -	6	6 a	Ditto - ditto - -	7
	Ditto - ditto (a) - -	8	18 a		
	Males, Bell ward - -	9	21 a		
	Males, Mayo ward - -	12	19 a		
	Males, Shaftesbury ward -	9	20 a		
	Males, Stuart ward - -	9			
	Children, Cambridge ward -	-			
	Children, Oxford ward - -	-	4 a		
	Males, imbeciles, St. Luke's ward.	-	3 a		
			3 a		



## No. 8.

## ST. GILES AND ST. GEORGE.

WE visited this workhouse on 11th April 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer and the master.

The workhouse itself is an old building, some parts of it dating back more than a century and a quarter; and is placed in a densely populated and squalid locality. It is surrounded by buildings on all sides, which renders the free access of air almost impossible. The drainage is believed to be good.

The infirmary is a new building, placed within the enclosure formed by the workhouse. It consists of three stories, with two lofty and large rooms on each floor. There is a large open staircase, with stone steps, passing through the centre of the building; and on the different landings are sets of two water-closets to each ward, and two bath-rooms on the ground floor. There are also rooms in the basement, one of which is now being prepared for the reception of itch cases.

There are not any infectious wards; but cases of fever of every kind in adults, and small-pox, are sent to the hospitals. Infants and young children affected with scarlet fever or hooping cough, are not kept in separate wards, but are placed in the general wards for sick women.

Cases of syphilis are rejected, except under special circumstances. Noisy and violent lunatics and idiots are sent to the asylums; but there are now 15 imbeciles in the workhouse. Infants and very young children, numbering about 70, are sent to the school at Isleworth; but others, to the number of about 44, are in the nursery, suckling wards, or sick wards of the workhouse. There is also a large school of older children in the workhouse.

The cases now found in the infirmary are all those who are placed by the medical officer upon his books, and all who would therefore be usually denominated sick; but there are about 80 cases of aged and infirm people in the old part of the workhouse, called the "Old Infirmary," who are visited by the medical officer, and some of them require attention (although all go out of doors on fine days), and two wards of bedridden inmates in two other and more recently built parts of the workhouse, in addition to the imbeciles, who are seen by the medical officer.

There are not any day-rooms.

The total number of persons in the workhouse to-day is 677.

The following are the dimensions of the various rooms, with the number of beds which they now contain:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
45	Women, sick and infirm - {	42 9	20 3	14 0	14
		—12 2	7 2	7 0	
43	Ditto - - ditto - - {	43 8	21 0	14 6	
44	Ditto - - ditto - - {	31 9	21 0	14 6	14
42	Men, sick and infirm - {	31 9	21 0	13 9	14
41	Ditto - - ditto - - {	43 8	21 0	13 9	15
		12 6	6 6	7 0	
46	Ditto - - ditto - - {	21 6	20 3	14 0	9
47	New ward - - - - {	23 6	20 0	8 9	-
Old Infirmary:					
55	Men, sick and infirm - {	27 0	16 9	9 10	10
		—5 0	2 6	9 10	
54	Men, itch ward - - {	24 6	19 0	9 10	
		—7 6	7 3	9 10	9
52	Women's, itch ward - {	24 6	19 6	9 0	9
		—7 0	7 0	9 0	
50	Women's, sick and infirm - {	24 9	19 8	11 6	9
		—7 0	7 0	11 6	
53	Ditto - - ditto - - {	29 0	17 10	9 7	12
1	Lying-in ward - - {	19 0	16 0	8 7	6
		+19 0	11 6	4 3	
2	Lying-in convalescent - {	31 6	13 0	8 3	6
		—6 6	5 6	8 3	
37	Women, aged and infirm - {	33 6	19 8	9 1	14
26	Ditto - - ditto - - {	34 0	18 9	11 0	13
		—4 7	2 0	11 0	

ST. GILES  
and ST. GEORGE.

Appendix.

St. GILES  
and St. GEORGE.

Size of rooms, and  
general character.

The rooms in the infirmary are large, airy, and light, except Number 9, occupied by men on the ground-floor, in which there are only two windows placed very high, and affording insufficient light. The room in the basement, in which itch cases are to be placed, is chiefly objectionable from the fact that it is in the basement, and must therefore be deficient in both light and air.

The rooms appropriated to the bed-ridden, and aged and infirm, are incomparably inferior both in appearance, and in a sanitary point of view; and it would, no doubt, be most desirable that these, in common with all the old wards, should be pulled down, and others built, which would conform to the ideas of the present day. Those, however, which are appropriated to the bed-ridden are better than the others.

The room in which the imbeciles are placed, is not sufficiently light.

The lying-in wards are placed in the old part of the building, but, in the opinion of the medical officer, are very favourable to the recovery of that class of cases. The darkest rooms in the workhouse here, as in many other places, are preferred by the inmates to lighter and more modern ones, since they are not very unlike their own former dwellings. The height and width of the rooms in the infirmary are commonly 14 feet and 20 feet; and the following is the floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed in the different wards.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
45	Women, sick and infirm - - - - -	56	822
43	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	51	739
44	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	48	691
42	Men, sick and infirm - - - - -	48	655
41	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	56	803
46	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	48	677
47	New ward - - - - -	—	—
Old Infirmary :			
55	Men, sick and infirm - - - - -	44	432
54	Men, itch ward - - - - -	46	449
52	Women's itch ward - - - - -	48	429
50	Women's sick and infirm ward - - - - -	49	559
53	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	43	413
1	Lying-in ward - - - - -	51	590
2	Lying-in convalescent ward - - - - -	62	514
37	Women, aged and infirm - - - - -	47	427
26	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	48	532

Hence the floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed in the infirmary vary from 48 to 56 superficial feet, and from 677 to 822 cubic feet; but in the body of the workhouse the former varies from 43 to 51 superficial feet, and the latter from 413 to 559 cubic feet. All the wards in the infirmary have the space required by the Poor Law Board; but five out of nine in the body of the workhouse are deficient.

Bedding and furniture.

The bedding is now in process of improvement; so that the flock beds, which are lumpy, are being supplanted by wool mattresses. The bedsteads are of iron and sacking. The counterpanes in the men's ward, No. 42, are woollen, and, being red, have a cheerful look; whilst in all the other parts of the infirmary and workhouse the counterpanes are of blue colour, cotton, old, and old-fashioned, and of a dingy and repulsive appearance. Many of the blankets are old and thin. The linen is not of good colour. The beds in the foul ward look miserable.

Each inmate has a separate towel, and a napkin upon which to place the food; and there are also roller towels for more general use. Many of the inmates have their own comb and brush; and about half a dozen to each ward are supplied by the guardians.

There are lockers, and, in some wards, towel horses, placed between each two or three beds. There are also chairs with or without backs, and benches with backs, or simply forms, in the different wards; and there is a cupboard, but, instead of being occupied by the crockery and utensils, is filled with clothing.

There are wooden trenchers still in use here for the food of the inmates, which are antiquated and repelling, and require much labour to keep them clean.

There are exceedingly few prints; it would scarcely be wrong to say that there are no prints upon the walls; and we did not see any illustrated periodicals or newspapers, or games in the wards. There are night stools in the various wards; and sufficient water-closets and lavatories in the infirmary, but probably not a sufficiency in the old buildings.

Cleanliness.

There is a want of appearance of cheerfulness, comfort, and tidiness in the furniture, &c. in many of the rooms. There is too much that is old and antiquated.

There is not really want of cleanliness in the rooms and furniture, although the aspect of the old rooms, the rugs and other articles, is not that of cleanliness. The state of the foul



foul wards is not satisfactory; and throughout, the colour of the linen might be advantageously improved.

The ventilation in the infirmary is good, and is effected by the open staircases, the open fire-places, the large windows, sometimes with perforated glass, and the ventilators in the ceilings and floors which communicate with the outer air. The room, No. 44, in which the infants were placed with adults, did not smell sweet.

The ventilation in the old part of the workhouse is far from satisfactory; and some of the rooms, as 53 and 56, are very close. The corridors and staircases are not well ventilated.

There are two paid nurses for the six wards in the new infirmary, with one unpaid nurse, and one unpaid helper, to each ward; and three night nurses, unpaid, for the six wards. There is also a paid midwife, and she has two pauper nurses, and one helper, to assist her to nurse the cases under her care.

The nurses receive 20*l.* a-year, with lodging and full rations, including 1 lb. of meat and about 1½ pint of porter daily! The midwife receives 40*l.* a-year, with lodging and rations; and in addition to her duties within the workhouse, attends the lying-in cases in the district, and receives such help from other midwives as she may require. The unpaid nurses and helpers receive extra rations; and, in the opinion of the master, the money thus appropriated could not be spent more advantageously.

The medical officer is resident within the workhouse, and has charge both of the workhouse and the out-door medical relief of the parish. There is an assistant, who is also resident, and who dispenses, and has especially the charge of the out-door medical relief.

The in-door cases amount to about 80 in the infirmary, and they are regarded as really the sick cases; but in the old infirmary, containing the aged and infirm, there are always a few in each ward who take medicine, and are seen by the medical officer when they request it.

The out-door cases, amounting to about 30, are visited at their own homes daily, and 50 to 90 attend at the dispensary. Applicants receive attention at once, whether they bring a medical order or not; but the sick obtain medical orders afterwards.

The time devoted by the medical officer to his work is from about 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

The medical officer receives 250*l.* yearly, and the assistant 100*l.* yearly; and both have rooms, fire, and washing (not board). They divide between them from 30*l.* to 40*l.* yearly, derived from extras for vaccinations.

The medical officer thinks this the best arrangement for the medical care of the sick that could be devised; and, for a new officer, he thinks the present salary sufficient. In his own case, after 22 years' service, he thinks that 50*l.* yearly additional should be allowed him.

All his orders for food, stimulants, and medical appliances are readily attended to. The cost of the drugs is about 130*l.* to 140*l.* per year, for both the in-door and out-door relief. There is a special dietary for the aged and infirm; and they do not appear upon his medical books, except when really sick.

The following are the recommendations which I offer in reference to the workhouse:—

1. I do not think that any class of sick cases should be placed in a room in the basement, whatever care may be taken to render the room comfortable.

2. The old rugs should at once be removed, and cheerful-looking woollen rugs substituted. The linen should be made of better colour; and the general aspect of the wards, linen, and furniture, in reference to cleanliness, should be improved.

3. The cupboards should be used for the purpose of placing the crockery and utensils in them. The clothing should be kept in proper stores.

4. Prints, illustrated periodicals, interesting books and games, and chairs and benches with backs and cushions should be much more largely supplied.

5. The wooden trenchers should be supplanted by crockery.

6. Labels should be placed upon the house medicine bottles which are kept in each room, and proper measures of quantity supplied.

7. I cannot speak of the old infirmary, and the other very old parts of the workhouse as if they were occupied by sick only, since they constitute the body of the workhouse, and are for the general inmates. The wards are, however, not in accordance with the views of the day, and the whole should be rebuilt.

So long as they remain, they might be made more cheerful by painting, prints, proper bed rugs, and rigid cleanliness, and more healthful by improving the ventilation. The latter is quite necessary. The corridors in the old building should also be better ventilated.

8. Infants and very young children should not be placed in the general itch wards. A suitable ward for such sick cases should be at once provided.

9. Day rooms are required both for convalescent and for the aged and infirm.

Appendix.

ST. GILES  
and ST. GEORGE.

Ventilation.

Nursing.

Medical officer.

Recommendations

## Appendix.

ST. GILES  
and ST. GEORGE.

10. The medical officer's salary might fairly be increased.

11. There should be one or more paid nurses in the old infirmary besides those for the new infirmary, to take charge of the bedridden cases; and two paid night nurses are needful. Sufficient pauper help should continue to be supplied both night and day.

12. I doubt very much if it is either needful or wise to give so large a quantity of meat and porter to pauper nurses.

13. Two, and in some instances, three beds are placed close together; and then a locker separates them from the next bed. This should not be allowed. Each bed should be kept apart from the others; and the following is the number which should be allowed in each ward:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpos to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
45	Women, sick and infirm -	14		Old Infirmary:	
43	Ditto - ditto - - -	14	55	Men, sick and infirm - -	7 or 8
44	Ditto - ditto - - -	10	54	Ditto, itch ward - - -	7
42	Men, sick and infirm - -	10	52	Women's itch ward - - -	6 or 7
41	Ditto - ditto - - -	14	50	Ditto - sick and infirm -	7
46	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7	53	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 9
47	New Ward - - - -	-	1	Lying-in ward - - -	4 or 5
			2	Ditto - convalescent - -	4 or 5
			37	Women, aged and infirm -	9 or 10
			26	Ditto - ditto - - -	9 or 10

## No. 9.

## ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

ST. MARTIN-IN-  
THE-FIELDS.

As this workhouse has been purchased by the Government, and will shortly be pulled down, it was scarcely necessary to include it in our present inspection.

We visited it on 12th April 1866, and were accompanied by the master and matron. The medical officer was absent.

Of the sick wards some are found in a detached building, and others in the body of the workhouse. The former are three in number, two being occupied by women, and one by men. The latter are four in number: two being devoted to surgical cases in both sexes, one to partially bedridden, and one to really bedridden women.

There are not any separate infectious wards, since cases of small-pox, and of every kind of fever are sent, in a special conveyance, to the special hospitals. Cases of syphilis are admissible, but none are now in the workhouse. There are about 15 imbeciles in the workhouse, mixed with the ordinary inmates, and all noisy and violent cases of that class are sent to the asylums. There is no separate itch ward, and as the cases are very few, they are placed in the common foul ward.

There is a tolerably large open space within the walls. The drainage is good. There are now 429 inmates in the workhouse; and the various infirmary wards above-mentioned, contain 56 ordinary sick cases, and 26 cases which are more or less bedridden.

There are not any day-rooms for the sick.

The following are the dimensions of the infirmary wards, with the number of beds (including the nurses and helpers' beds), which are now found in them:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	No. of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
(B)	Women's sick ward - -	22 9	12 2	8 7	2
(C)	Ditto - - ditto - - -	39 9	21 0	8 7	15
(D)	Men's sick ward - - -	— 3 8	2 0	8 7	
(H)	Men's sick ward (surgical cases) - - -	29 10	21 0	8 7	11
(K)	Women's sick ward (surgical cases) - - -	45 4	18 3	10 11	15
	Women's sick ward (surgical cases) - - -	44 9	18 3	10 11	16
	Women's sick ward (aged and infirm) - - -	+ 8 0	1 6	10 11	
17	Women's sick ward (aged and infirm) - - -	51 3	18 3	10 9	14
	Ditto - - ditto - - -	+ 4 0	1 6	10 9	
21	Ditto - - ditto - - -	52 9	18 6	9 9	14
		—10 0	1 6	9 9	



The size of the rooms, and their general character, are moderately good, since none are too large to be useful, and not too small to be well ventilated, but several of them are much too low.

There are windows on both sides of the wards, and the rooms are airy and cheerful. There are not now any wards in the basement.

The height and width of the rooms are commonly  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 11 feet, and 20 feet; and the following is the floor space and the cubical space allowed to each bed:—

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
(B)	Woman's sick ward (scarcely used) - - - -	139	1,188
(C)	Ditto - ditto - - - -	55	473
(D)	Men's sick ward - - - -	57	489
(H)	Men's sick ward (surgical cases) - - - -	55	602
(K)	Woman's sick ward (surgical cases) - - - -	52	565
17	Woman's sick ward (aged and infirm) - - - -	67	723
21	Ditto - - - ditto - - - -	69	669

Hence it appears that the floor space and cubical space vary from 52 to 69 superficial feet, and from 473 to 723 cubic feet; and in two wards the latter is less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

The bedding is good throughout. It consists of flock beds, and iron bedsteads, with sacking or iron laths. The bed coverings are sufficient.

There are cupboards within and upon which the crockery and utensils are kept. Chairs, lockers, benches, books, and a few prints are found. There are water-closets, with sinks, for the use of all the wards. Two white washhand basins are provided for each ward, and four towels are allowed, and may be exchanged at any time. There is no separate fixed bath for the sick, but there is a portable bath for their use.

The bedding, beds, tables, floors, furniture, and utensils were cleanly. Owing to the frequency with which exceptions occur, in changing the linen, there was some difficulty in ascertaining the rule; but it appeared to be a pair of clean sheets for each sick person weekly. Cleanliness.

Soap is allowed to the inmates, but not a piece to each separately.

The ventilation throughout the wards was very fair during the day. It is maintained by open fireplaces; by windows on both sides of each ward, the upper sashes of which let down into a rack, or the whole swings on a central pin; by long large square ventilators, which pass through the roof, and are defended externally by louvre lights; by a perforated piece of zinc, placed across the top of some of the sashes, and by a false sash placed at the bottom in the room. In reference to the sashes it must be added that the former acts when the upper sash is let down, and the latter when the lower sash is elevated. Ventilation.

There is one paid nurse in charge of all the sick cases, who receives 30 *l.* per year, with board and lodging. There is also an unpaid nurse, a helper, and a night nurse, to each ward, who receive extra rations, and have different coloured dresses. Nursing.

The medical officer attends at the workhouse during about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours daily, and sees, on the average, about 60 cases. He has neither assistant nor dispenser, and he finds all drugs, except cod-liver oil and quinine. The drugs cost him 25 *l.* yearly. His salary has been recently increased, and is now 150 *l.* There are not any extras. He is of opinion that the guardians should find all drugs, and pay him 170 *l.* yearly. Medical Officer.

There is to be another paid day nurse, and a paid night nurse appointed. He considers that the wards are good and healthy. The ventilation is not so good as it might be. He cannot advise as to the number of cubic feet of air which should be allowed to each bed. All his recommendations in reference to food, stimulants, and medical appliances, are readily attended to.

The following are the recommendations which I offer in reference to this workhouse; but as the building will soon be pulled down, any recommendations are of little value. Recommendations.

1. Another paid nurse, and a paid night nurse should be appointed.
2. Separate baths, portable and otherwise, should be provided for the sick.
3. Two day-rooms should be provided.
4. The ventilating shaft in C. Ward should be enclosed with boards, and kept clean.
5. More wash-hand basins are required, and a separate piece of soap, and a towel, should be allowed to each inmate.
6. Small kitchens, or washing-up places, are needed in connection with the sick wards.
7. A separate diet should be provided for the aged and infirm.
8. The ventilation in the different wards should be watched, and the ventilating windows kept partially open at night.

## Appendix.

ST. MARTIN-IN-  
THE-FIELDS.

9. The following is the number of beds which should be allowed in the different wards :—

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
(B)	Women's sick ward - - - - -	6
(C)	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	12
(D)	Men's sick ward - - - - -	9 or 10
(H)	Men's sick ward (surgical cases) - - -	14 or 15
(K)	Women's sick ward (surgical cases) - -	14 or 15
17	Women's sick ward (aged and infirm) - -	14 or 16
21	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	14 or 16

## No. 10.

## THE STRAND UNION WORKHOUSE.

STRAND UNION  
WORKHOUSE.

It has been determined by the Guardians to build a new infirmary at their schools at Edmonton, and to remove the sick cases from the present workhouse. Hence it was scarcely needful to inspect the present building.

We visited this workhouse on 12th April 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer and the master. We experienced much difficulty in drawing a line as to the wards which we should inspect, since, in addition to some sick wards, there are a greater or less number of sick cases existing at various times in nearly all the other wards; and it became needful to examine all the wards not devoted to the able-bodied.

Hence, there is no classification of the cases with reference to their diseases; yet one or two wards are more particularly occupied by the more serious cases; and one or two wards are nominally used as convalescent wards.

There are no infectious wards (except one for children), since fever cases of all kinds, and small-pox, are sent to hospitals. Noisy and violent lunatics and imbeciles are sent to asylums.

There are not any day rooms for the use of the sick.

The number of persons in the workhouse now, is 556, but sometimes it approaches to 600.

The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds (including the nurses' beds), now in them.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
10	Men's sick ward (convalescent patients).	57 6	18 0	10 6	20
14	Men's sick ward (aged and infirm).	18 10	18 3	7 11	8
17	Ditto - ditto - - - -	57 6	18 3	7 10	21
19	Men's sick ward - - - -	57 10 + 57 10	18 9 10 5	8 6 5 0	20
20	Ditto - ditto - - - -	41 9 + 41 9	28 6 22 6	9 0 4 3	18
21	Women, aged and infirm -	19 3	18 9	8 4	7
22	Women's sick ward - - -	57 6 + 57 6	18 9 10 5	8 3 5 3	20
23	Lying-in ward - - - -	19 0	18 0	8 0	6
24	Nursery - - - - -	57 6	18 0	7 10	21
16	Women, imbeciles - - -	28 0	18 6	7 9	8
15	Ditto - ditto - - - -	27 10	23 4	7 9	11
25	Women (convalescent) - -	18 10	18 0	10 0	8
26	Women, aged and infirm -	27 10	23 6	10 0	13
27	Ditto - ditto - - - -	57 4	18 0	9 8	24
28	Ditto - ditto - - - -	57 4	18 0	10 6	23
	Women (cage ward) - - -	24 10 — 13 0	16 0 6 4	7 9 7 9	7
1a	Women, aged and infirm -	73 9	16 10	11 10	33
2a	Ditto - ditto - - - -	44 0	17 3	10 1	18
3a	Ditto - ditto - - - -	32 0	17 3	10 1	12
	Men's infectious-ward - -	21 10	15 0	9 5	7
	Men's insane ward - - -	19 4 + 6 0	14 3 3 3	11 0 11 0	7
	Men's insane ward (over) -	19 4 + 19 4	14 3 11 9	11 3 2 3	8
	Children's infectious ward -	16 6 + 6 9	12 8 5 9	11 0 11 0	6
	Children's infectious ward (over).	16 6 + 6 9	12 8 5 9	10 9 10 9	6



Appendix.

STRAND UNION  
WORKHOUSE.

Size of rooms and  
general cleanliness.

The size of most of the rooms is good except in height. Of the exceptional wards one is very long, and another is so wide as to have three rows of beds in it, whilst those devoted to foul cases, imbeciles, and infectious cases in children and women, are much too small for proper ventilation.

In the great majority of wards there are windows on both sides, or on one side, and at the two ends, which render the rooms light and cheerful. Some of the rooms, particularly those occupied by some of the aged women, and by the female imbeciles, have a very homely and comfortable appearance. The colour of the painted walls adds also much to this effect.

There is not any room in the basement; but one room, occupied by casual sick and syphilitic cases, is placed very low, and is dark.

The height and width of the rooms are commonly 8 to 11 feet, and 18 to 23 feet, but no less than seven wards are less than eight feet in height. The floor space and cubical space for each bed are:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		Sup. ft.	Cub. ft.
10	Men's sick ward (convalescent patients) - - -	52	543
14	Ditto, aged and infirm - - - - -	43	340
17	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	391
19	Ditto, sick ward - - - - -	54	611
20	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	66	817
21	Women, aged and infirm - - - - -	52	430
22	Women's sick ward - - - - -	54	602
23	Lying-in-ward - - - - -	57	456
24	Nursery - - - - -	49	386
16	Women, imbeciles - - - - -	52	405
15	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	59	458
25	Women (convalescents) - - - - -	42	424
26	Women, aged and infirm - - - - -	50	503
27	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	416
28	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	471
	Women, cage ward - - - - -	45	349
1a	Women, aged and infirm - - - - -	37	444
2a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	425
3a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	464
	Men's infectious ward - - - - -	47	440
	Men's insane ward - - - - -	42	464
	Ditto - ditto (over) - - - - -	35	451
	Children's infectious ward - - - - -	41	454
	Ditto - ditto (over) - - - - -	41	444

Hence the floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are from 35 to 66 superficial feet, and from 340 to 817 cubic feet. No less than 19 out of 24 wards are deficient in the cubical space required by the Poor Law Board.

The bedding throughout is good. The beds are of flock in the general wards, and of feathers in the lying-in-ward. The bedsteads are of iron, with sacking or laths. In a few of the wards the old-fashioned blue counterpane is still found, which, by loss of colour, looks old, untidy, and even dirty, although it may be clean. In a majority of the rooms there is a very cheerful looking reddish woollen counterpane, and in some a very suitable white counterpane, with coloured border, is placed over the blue counterpane during the day. The sheets and blankets are sufficient. The bedsteads are made to be turned up, and thus to give more room during the day-time.

There are good small lockers, arm-chairs, night-stools, books, prints, and pictures, in the wards. White pottery wash-hand basins are used. Towels are provided. There are water-closets; but in some instances, as in the case of No. 10, men's convalescent ward, they are not conveniently placed. There are screens in the various wards.

Every part of the bedding, floor, tables, utensils, and furniture was clean, and some rooms were most scrupulously white and clean; indeed the cleanliness and the comfortable appearance of the beds and many of the rooms are a remarkable feature of the management.

An improper employment is found for the able-bodied inmates in this workhouse, that of beating carpets in the yard, which causes much dust to enter the different wards. This is said to be profitable, but it leads to much inconvenience.

The ventilation throughout the workhouse is very defective, and considering that there are windows on both sides, and that there is excellent opportunity for ventilation, in all but the low wards, the defect is without excuse.

In many of the wards there are small tubes placed over gas jets, which lead to the outer air, and also one or two very small ventilators over the door or into the chimney.

Bedding and furni-  
ture.

Cleanliness.

Ventilation.

## Appendix.

STRAND UNION  
WORKHOUSE.

In the top rooms, and in a few others, there are also ventilators placed in the ceiling. In many rooms, however, there is no attempt at ventilation that can in the least deserve the name. In the women's and children's infectious wards, and the men's imbecile wards, the staircases and landings are enclosed by wood, without any means of ventilation, and in these and some other rooms the air is very close; but even in the rooms where there is an attempt at ventilation, it is quite inadequate to keep the air sweet and fresh.

There are a few air-bricks placed in the walls, but they are covered over. There are also a few ventilators placed in the floors, but they are shut, and in several instances the ventilators in the ceiling were closed.

Practically the ventilation is dependent upon the open fire-places, and on the windows, which are closed during a great part of the day, and all the night. The staircases, which should be the best ventilators of the workhouse, are all kept close by the windows being too generally closed.

Condy's fluid is placed upon rags and allowed to evaporate; and a special instrument is provided for this purpose.

## Nursing.

Two paid nurses, one for each sex, have just been appointed, and they will divide the care of the sick between them by each taking charge of the two sexes alternately. There are also one pauper nurse and one helper to each ward, and although there are not any distinctly appointed night nurses, provision is made for such when occasion requires it. No person who is very ill, or dying, is left without an attendant.

There is a midwife, who is paid by the case (7 s. 6 d. for each case) and does not reside within the workhouse.

## Medical officer.

The medical officer attends at the workhouse daily, and with a dispenser and an assistant about four hours daily are occupied in the duties of their office. The guardians find all drugs, up to the value of 30 l. yearly, and lemon-juice, and cod liver oil in addition; but we were told that this is not sufficient, except by an economy which is not advantageous to the patients.

The salary of the medical officer is 100 guineas, and, in addition, he receives 25 l. to 27 l. yearly for extras in lunacy and midwifery cases. The number of sick cases which are under his care is about 175.

He thinks that the guardians should find all the drugs, and in whatever quantity the cases may require; also that his salary should be increased to 150 l. or 200 guineas; or that an assistant should reside within the workhouse, and be paid by the guardians. Whatever may be the salary he thinks that in all workhouses there should be payment of extras.

There should be one paid nurse to about 75 mixed sick cases.

There should be one day-room on each side for the use of the convalescent and chronic cases; and cases of a serious nature should be placed together.

There is a special dietary for the aged and infirm inmates.

The guardians provide all diets, stimulants, and medical appliances readily when such are ordered.

The cubic space which should be allowed to each person by day and night, is from 500 to 750 cubic feet.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I offer, respecting this workhouse:—

1. A proper system of ventilation should be devised and adopted in every room in the workhouse.

A. The staircases should be made to act as ventilators, by open louvre, and other open lights at the top, and by the free entrance of air from below, so that a current of fresh air may proceed through them by night and day.

B. Large air bricks, with the openings covered with perforated zinc, should be placed at the top of the walls in every room, and be open night and day. Similar openings, but of larger size, and covered with zinc, having larger openings, should be placed over the doors leading to the passages. In the low rooms, as in the nursery, and probably in others, a piece of perforated zinc should be placed in the top part of the sash, and the sash so fastened that it shall be always open to the extent of one or two inches. In some rooms perforated glass might be placed in one pane of the top row of panes in the windows.

C. The ventilators, which are now closed, should be opened, and all ventilators should be cleaned out from time to time.

D. Openings should be made in all the partition walls of rooms, as in 2 A and 3 A, and in all the enclosures of staircases and landings, as in the insane ward and infectious wards. Some of these might require to be covered with perforated zinc, or filled in with perforated glass, or the inclosing boards might be altogether removed.

E. The low rooms on the upper floor should be made higher, by being built partly into the roof, and ventilators placed in the ceiling.

2. The itch ward, the syphilitic wards, the insane wards, and the infectious wards, are ill adapted, and should be changed or closed.

3. The



3. The old rugs should be removed, and supplanted by new woollen ones.
4. Small kitchens, or nurses' rooms, are much needed in various parts of the workhouse, in which the utensils might be placed, and in which the crockery could be washed.
5. Improved bath accommodation is necessary; and as it appears that perhaps one bath per week is needed for the sick, for medical purposes, moveable baths on wheels, and a sufficient supply of hot water on the different landings, should be added to the fixed ones.
6. With the sick scattered over the workhouse, it is scarcely possible to determine the number of nurses which are really requisite, but there should be at least three paid day nurses and two paid night nurses appointed, with proper wages, allowances, and apartments. The present pauper helpers should be retained, and their position improved.
7. The present arrangements of the lying-in department might be improved with advantage to the union. The cases should be attended by the medical officer for the sum usually paid to other medical officers of workhouses, instead of by a non-resident midwife. Waterproof sheeting should be supplied to the labour bed, and to most of the other beds.
8. At least one day-room for convalescents and chronic cases should be provided on each side.
9. The salary of the medical officer should be increased. All drugs and medical appliances should be provided at the cost of the guardians, in an unlimited quantity.
10. If the medical officer had charge of the lying-in cases it would probably be better that there should be an assistant, resident within the workhouse, whose salary, board, and lodging would be provided by the guardians.
11. The beating of carpets upon the premises, with the noise and dust to which it gives rise, is an abomination; and should either cease,\* or some place be provided, where these two evils would not affect the workhouse and the inmates.
12. As a new infirmary is to be built, it is not needful to say more than that the present arrangement of having sick cases all over the workhouse is very inconvenient, and might probably have been prevented in this as in other workhouses.
13. The workhouse is in many parts much too crowded, and only the following number of beds should be allowed in the several wards:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
10	Men's sick ward (convalescent patients) - - -	16 or 17	26	Ditto, aged and infirm - - -	9
14	Ditto, aged and infirm - - -	4	27	Women, aged and infirm - - -	16 or 17
17	Ditto - ditto - - -	16	28	Ditto - ditto - - -	17
19	Ditto, sick ward - - -	18		Ditto, cage ward - - -	4 or 5
20	Ditto - ditto - - -	14	1a	Ditto, aged and infirm - - -	22
21	Women, aged and infirm - - -	4 or 5	2a	Ditto - ditto - - -	12 or 13
22	Ditto, sick ward - - -	18	3a	Ditto - ditto - - -	10
23	Lying-in ward - - -	4		Men's infectious ward - - -	3
24	Nursery - - -	-		Ditto, insane ditto - - -	-
16	Women, imbeciles - - -	-		Ditto - ditto (over) - - -	-
15	Ditto - ditto - - -	-		Children's infectious ward - - -	-
25	Ditto, convalescent - - -	2 or 3		Ditto - ditto (over) - - -	-

\* This has, I believe, been effected since our visit and report.

HOLBORN UNION  
WORKHOUSE.

THE HOLBORN UNION WORKHOUSE.

WE visited this workhouse on 13th April 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer and the master.

It is situated in Gray's Inn-road, and is well drained. There is not a detached infirmary, but certain wards in the upper story are devoted to the sick, properly so called ; and in the wards occupied by the aged and infirm, and the imbeciles, are persons who from time to time are under the care of the medical officer.

There are not any infectious wards, since cases of fever, of whatever kind, and of small-pox, are sent to the hospitals ; but if a case of scarlet fever were to occur to a young child the patient would be placed in a room apart from the inmates. Itch cases are few, and are soon cured, but, in the meantime, they are kept in the receiving ward. Cases of syphilis are admitted, but are almost immediately sent to the Lock Hospital. There is no day-room for the sick ; the yards are small, but kept in good repair, and ornamented with flowers.

The number of inmates in the workhouse is 456, of whom 157 are upon the medical officer's books.

The following are the measurements of the several wards, with the number of beds in them :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
7	Men's sick ward (general cases) {	67 0 — 9 9	17 8 4 9	8 9 8 9	17
7a	Ditto - ditto - - -	40 6	22 9	8 9	
8	Children's sick ward - -	29 3	17 9	8 9	10
9	Men, sick and infirm - -	65 9	17 8	8 9	23
35	Women, aged and infirm -	46 6	17 0	9 11	18
30	Women, bed-ridden - -	48 9	25 6	9 11	20
31	Women, aged and infirm -	48 9	25 6	9 11	20
34	Ditto - - ditto - - -	46 6	17 0	9 11	16
33	Women's sick ward - -	46 6	17 0	7 10	17
32	Ditto - ditto - - -	48 9	25 6	7 10	17
	<i>Imbeciles :</i>				
22	Women's day-room - -	19 3	18 8	8 0	11
22a	Women's bed-room - -	15 6	19 9	9 6	6
1	Men's insane ward - -	21 5	20 9	8 4	10

Hence it appears that the usual height and width of these rooms is 8 to 10 feet, and 17 to 25 feet.

The



The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed is as follows:—

Appendix.

HOLBORN UNION  
WORKHOUSE.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purposes to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. Feet.</i>	<i>Cub. Feet.</i>
7	Men's sick ward (general cases) - - - -	67	585
7a	Ditto - ditto - - - -	66	576
8	Children's sick ward - - - -	52	454
9	Men, sick and infirm - - - -	50	442
35	Women, aged and infirm - - - -	44	435
30	Women, bed-ridden - - - -	62	616
31	Women, aged and infirm - - - -	62	616
34	Ditto - ditto - - - -	50	490
33	Women's sick ward - - - -	47	364
32	Ditto - ditto - - - -	73	573
	<i>Imbeciles :</i>		
22	Women's day-room - - - -	33	261
22 a	Women's bed-room - - - -	51	485
1	Men's insane ward - - - -	44	370

Hence it appears that the floor space and cubical space varies from 44 to 73 superficial feet, and from 364 to 616 cubic feet.

Many of the rooms, with the exception of those which are occupied by the imbeciles, are large, wide, open, light, and airy, but much too low. There are windows on both sides of the rooms, and the walls are coloured agreeably. Size of rooms and general appearance

The bedding is of flock upon iron bedsteads, with laths or sacking. The rugs in some of the rooms are of blue cotton, and look old and untidy; whilst in others, there are woollen rugs of somewhat more cheerful appearance. The bedsteads are made to fold up, and it is the practice here to fold up all the bedding and clothes, and place them at the head of the bed, after the plan of military hospitals. Bedding and furniture.

There are chairs, benches with backs and cushions, lockers, cupboards in which to place the crockery, and cocoa-fibre matting, or pieces of carpet. There are excellent prints upon the walls, artificial flowers in the rooms, periodicals, and a large supply of books. There are also small kitchens in which the crockery is washed, and sufficient water-closets, and hot and cold water are supplied to the lavatories from a special heating apparatus, in several parts of the workhouse. There are also night-stools, of a new and very excellent construction, acting in all respects as well as the best water-closets. (See Report, page 51.)

The lavatories are well arranged, and one in the yard is furnished with the tip-up wash-hand basins, by which the dirty water is easily cast out, and clean water enters. (See Report, page 40.)

The rooms occupied by the lunatics, both male and female, are on the ground floor, and are neither so light nor so cheerful as they should be.

There are towels, soap, and basins for the use of the inmates.

The bedding, floors, furniture, and utensils, are very clean, and are kept in a very creditable condition. The same may be said of the walls and building generally, so far as we inspected it. There are said to be a few bugs in some parts of the workhouse, and on that account the master preferred the sacking to the lath bedsteads. The dresses of some of the helpers did not look very clean, but those inmates were engaged in cleaning the wards. Cleanliness.

The system of ventilation is, generally speaking, good. In the rooms immediately underneath the roof, which are occupied by the sick proper, there are large grating ventilators in the ceiling, to all of which there was a jet of gas. Ventilation.

In others, as those occupied by the aged and infirm, there are panes of perforated glass in the windows; also gratings in a few places in the walls, and a simple ventilator placed in the centre of the window, with a pane moving horizontally on a central pin. The Arnott's ventilators let in the smoke, and are kept closed.

The master and medical officer concurred in the statement that the ventilation is good during the night; and judging from the character of the rooms, the number of beds, the windows and ventilators, I think it not improbable, at the season when the ventilators are kept open.

HOLBORN UNION  
WORKHOUSE.

## Nursing.

In this respect, however, the rooms for the imbeciles are much inferior, and although they did not smell close during the day, I do not doubt that they are very foul at night.

There is one paid nurse, who has charge of all the sick wards, and there are also one nurse and one helper to each ward, who are unpaid. There are no special night nurses, but whenever a case requires a night nurse, one is provided.

## Medical officer.

The medical officer attends on the average about two hours and a half daily, and is occupied about two hours weekly in preparing his book. He has neither dispenser nor assistant; and he finds all drugs, except cod-liver oil, quinine, and ointment. He has 157 cases upon his books, of whom 80 are placed there simply to obtain a suitable dietary, and do not need his attention. He speaks individually to the inmates in the sick wards proper, but only to those in the aged and infirm wards, and imbecile wards, who express a wish to see him. His salary is 125 *l.* per year, and about 48 *l.* for extras in midwifery and insanity. He receives 11 *s.* for each midwifery case, and 21 *s.* for each certificate of lunacy.

He thinks that the guardians should find all the drugs, and pay him 200 *l.* per year, in addition to extras. A dispenser is not required, neither is an assistant, to reside in the workhouse.

He is of opinion that there should be two paid nurses, but a paid night nurse is not required.

A diet should be framed for the aged and infirm, containing meat and beer daily, and thus save the necessity for such persons to be placed upon his books.

Judging from the statements of others, with which he concurs, he thinks that each sick inmate should have 1,000 cubic feet of air; but he has not found any evil to result from the present smaller allowance.

The guardians readily provide all food, stimulants, and medical appliances which he may order.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I have to offer respecting the workhouse:—

1. The lunatics and imbeciles should be removed to more light and cheerful rooms, and there should be a day room for each sex. Their present rooms should be closed, but so long as they are used, the ventilation should be greatly improved.

2. It would be better to insert panes of perforated glass in the windows of the proper sick wards.

3. The blue cotton rugs should be supplanted by cheerful-looking woollen rugs.

4. Another paid day nurse and one or two paid night nurses should be appointed, besides those required for the care of the lunatics.

5. The guardians should find all the drugs, and increase the salary of the medical officer.

6. I doubt if each officer, male and female, should receive two pints of porter daily.

7. Two day rooms should be provided for the sick.

8. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
7	Men's sick ward (general cases) - - - -	15 or 17
7 a	Ditto - ditto - - - -	12 or 13
8	Children's sick ward - - - -	—
9	Men, sick and infirm - - - -	18
35	Women, aged and infirm - - - -	14
30	Women, bed-ridden - - - -	16
31	Women, aged and infirm - - - -	16
34	Ditto - ditto - - - -	14
33	Women's sick ward - - - -	10 or 11
32	Ditto - ditto - - - -	14
<i>Imbeciles:</i>		
22	Women's day-room - - - -	—
22 a	Women's bed-room - - - -	—
1	Men's insane ward - - - -	—



CLERKENWELL.

CLERKENWELL.

WE visited the Clerkenwell Workhouse on 18 April 1866. It is built on somewhat elevated ground; and the drains are now well trapped, and free from smell.

It consists of two parts, one of which is much older than the other. The older building faces the street, and contains a series of rooms placed side by side, with only an intervening wall, except in the centre of the building, where there is a large open staircase and passages. The newer building is placed in the rear of this, and runs parallel to it; and consists of one suite of single rooms only. The space between the two constitutes the airing yards; and a communication exists between the two, on the first floor, by means of a bridge. The bridge is not fully enclosed, and it thus acts, in some degree, as a ventilator to both buildings.

The recent erection of lofty model lodging houses, immediately to the south of this workhouse, has greatly diminished the means of ventilation.

The construction of the railway shook the workhouse in a very important degree; and rendered it necessary to tie the walls, and to strengthen the bridge.

There are not any fever and infectious wards, since cases of fever and small-pox are not admitted. Cases of insanity are kept apart in separate wards; and in this workhouse are placed upon the medical officer's books. Noisy and violent cases are sent to an asylum.

There are four wards which are devoted to sick cases; two of which are for medical, and two for surgical cases, one of each for each sex; and the other sick cases are kept in the wards devoted to the different classes to which they belong. It was thus needful for us to inspect many wards not exclusively devoted to the sick.

There are not any day-rooms. There are schools belonging to the parish apart from the workhouse; and nearly all the children are sent to them.

In this workhouse the very objectionable practice occurs of placing two adults, and even two sick adults, in each bed. In the lying-in ward, moreover, two women and two children are sometimes placed in the same bed. Hence it is needful in this workhouse to state the number of persons as well as the number of beds in each room.

The number of persons in the workhouse on Saturday last was 529; and of these, including the insane, 216 were placed upon the medical officer's list. There is not a sufficiently good dietary at this workhouse for aged persons; and in order that they might obtain a proper dietary, many of this number had been placed upon the medical officer's books.

The following are the dimensions of the various rooms in which the sick are found, with the number of beds and the number of persons in each room:—

Size of rooms and general character.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
24	Men's insane ward - -	36 3	14 9	9 6	15
19	Men's surgery ward - -	34 8	30 2	8 0	29
19a	Ditto - ditto - -	{ 49 3	7 10	8 6	} 10
		{ + 16 0	4 10	8 6	
6	Lying-in ward - -	34 10	20 2	8 0	7
8	Female insane ward - -	63 6	18 0	8 5	23
9	Female aged and infirm - -	72 6	18 0	8 6	19
5	Ditto - ditto - -	72 6	18 0	8 3	} 12 double. 8 single. 32 persons.
31	Female sick and infirm - -	{ 70 6 — 7 0	17 9 4 6	8 3 8 3	
33	Women's sick ward - -	70 6	17 9	9 6	} 4 double. 18 single. 25 persons.
34	Women's surgery ward - -	20 0	17 3	9 9	
35	Men's sick ward - -	{ 70 6 — 11 0	17 0 7 0	9 8 8 0	} 1 double. 5 single. 7 persons.
3	Women's foul ward - -	19 7	17 7	10 0	
					21
					7

Hence it appears that the usual height and width of the sick wards are from 8 to 10 feet, and from 17 to 18 feet.

Appendix.

The floor space and the cubical space allowed to each bed, and to each adult person in the different rooms, are as follows :—

CLERKENWELL.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. Feet.</i>	<i>Cub. Feet.</i>
24	Men's insane ward - - - - -	36	339
19	Men's surgery ward - - - - -	36	288
19a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	394
6	Lying-in ward - - - - -	100	803
8	Female insane ward - - - - -	50	418
9	Ditto, aged and infirm - - - - -	69	584
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	65 as to beds 41 as to persons	538 as to beds. 336 as to persons.
31	Ditto, sick and infirm - - - - -	55 as to beds 49 as to persons	457 as to beds. 403 as to persons.
33	Women's sick ward - - - - -	50	476
34	Women's surgery ward - - - - -	58 as to beds 49 as to persons	561 as to beds. 481 as to persons.
35	Men's sick ward - - - - -	53	522
3	Women's foul ward - - - - -	49	492

Hence it appears that the floor space and cubical space allotted to each person varied from 36 to 100 superficial feet, and from 288 to 584 cubic feet, and that 9 and 12 ward was deficient in the space required by the Poor Law Board.

The rooms in the older part of the workhouse have, with one or two exceptions, windows on one side only; and are not light and cheerful. Those on the ground floor, and particularly the male insane ward, are still less so.

Those in the newer building have windows on both sides, and are generally light and cheerful.

The rooms are all low, and, with a few exceptions, too narrow, and throughout the workhouse they exhibit the aspect of an old building.

Bedding and furniture.

The bedding consists of a flock bed, placed upon iron bedsteads, with iron laths or sacking. The quantity of flock was too small, so that the beds were almost universally too thin, and when placed upon laths, the latter would be readily felt through them. Moreover, the flock is not teased; and the beds are not usually changed, until the death of an occupant, or until the tick requires to be cleansed or renewed. The sheets are good; and the rugs are of wool, and moderately cheerful in appearance.

There are chairs and benches in the wards, but there are not any lockers, or book shelves. There are generally cupboards in the wards, and in the lobbies, which contain the crockery, and some of the utensils. There are also a very few small kitchens, or washing-up places; but generally the larger utensils are placed in the wards. There are scarcely any prints upon the walls. Illustrated periodicals are not supplied by the guardians, but a few are given by the officers. Dominoes are allowed to all; and draughts to the insane.

Generally, there is want of conveniences, and comfortable furniture in the rooms. There are not any fixed baths in the workhouse; but there are portable baths kept in good order. The water, both hot and cold, must be carried from the lower to the upper parts of the workhouse. There is no system of supply by pipes in the upper rooms; and in general the arrangements for the supply of water are deficient. Gas is used in the rooms.

There are night-chairs in each room; and water-closets in various parts of the workhouse; but, as in the case of the lying-in room, they are not conveniently placed, and are not sufficiently numerous.

Round towels and short towels are supplied to each room, but not to each person. Combs, but not brushes, are given when asked for; and many of the inmates are said to have their own towels. Soap is given to each person. Some of the small towels which we saw, were very ragged, and but few were good.

There



There are a few lavatories, with iron enamelled basins; but usually the sick are washed in pottery basins in the bed rooms.

The workhouse is in almost every respect kept in a cleanly condition. The linen is clean; and, in the sick wards, there are two clean sheets supplied weekly. The bedding, and furniture are clean; but the water-closets, from their construction, could not be kept in so cleanly a state as is desirable.

There are said to be a few bugs in this workhouse; and with so old a building in London it could not be otherwise.

There are not air bricks in any of the walls, or perforated glass in the windows. The ventilation is dependent upon the windows and doors, which are old and ill fitting, upon open fire-places (of which there are two in each of the larger wards), and upon large openings, covered with gratings, canvas, or shutters, placed in the ceilings, and communicating with the flues. When the wards are placed side by side several semicircular openings are made in the dividing wall; and similar means of ventilation are provided, when a corridor passes along the side of a room, as in the lying-in ward.

The male insane ward was very close, and No. 9 aged and infirm ward, was close, but nothing offensive was observed in the air of the other rooms. The medical officer and master, who are frequently in the rooms, state that the smell of the rooms does not exceed that of an ordinary private bed room.

I have no doubt, however, that the ventilation should be improved; and that the evil of the present state is greatly lessened by the ill-fitting of the doors and windows.

There are three non-pauper paid nurses. One, a female, is the superintendent of the nursing of the whole sick, and receives 20*l.* a year. The second is a man, who is the nurse of the male insane, and receives 8*l.* per year, and two suits of clothes. The third is a woman, the nurse of the female insane, who receives 2*s.* per week (5*l.* 4*s.* per year), and clothing. All these receive officers' rations.

There is also a pauper nurse to each ward, who receives 1*s.* per week, and has a distinctive dress; and there are two helpers to each of the large wards.

There is not any paid night nurse.

The master was of opinion that there should be two other paid day nurses, and one paid night nurse. Of the three paid general nurses, two should be devoted to the female, and one to the male inmates; or the one who is now superintendent of the whole should continue in that position, and one of the proposed nurses should be appropriated to the general sick of the two sexes.

The present staff of pauper nurses should be retained; and he is of opinion, that the gratuity of 1*s.* per week is an important incentive to good conduct.

The medical officer is not resident within, but resides very near to the workhouse. He always attends twice daily, viz.: from 9 to about 10.30 A.M., and from 7.30 to 8 P.M., and at other times as occasion may require. He devotes fully two hours per day within the workhouse, to the discharge of his duties. He has neither assistant nor dispenser; and the number of bottles of medicine which he prepares daily, either within the workhouse, or at his own house, is from 30 to 40. The guardians provide cod-liver oil and quinine. All other drugs are paid for by the medical officer, but he cannot estimate their cost.

His salary is 130*l.* per year, besides 10*s.* 6*d.* for each certificate of insanity. He does not receive extra payment for vaccination; and he is not paid anything for the instrumental and other serious midwifery cases, in which he is called to aid the paid midwife.

He is of opinion that his salary should be 200*l.* per year, besides the extras, as recommended by the Poor Law Board, and that the guardians should provide drugs and a dispenser.

He considers that there should be a good diet (including half-a-pint of beer daily), provided for the aged; and thus prevent the necessity of so many persons being regarded as sick, simply to obtain this dietary. The workhouse is too full, and quite inadequate to the wants of the parish. It will, moreover, be impossible to supply the necessary accommodation, until a new workhouse has been built. Great care is taken to supply the worst cases with single beds; and only such as are not seriously afflicted, or are convalescent, are placed two in a bed.

The guardians grant most readily whatever he orders in diet, stimulants, and medical appliances.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse:

Recommendations.

1. As the building is old and inadequate, it is quite necessary that it should be taken down without delay, and a new one erected, with larger sick wards, and a detached infirmary.

2. So long as it exists, certain alterations should be made.

3. The beds should be fuller, and the flock teased at frequent intervals.

4. A separate clean towel, and comb and brush should be supplied to each sick person.

5. Lockers, bookshelves, prints, illustrated periodicals, and games should be supplied; and an air of comfort given by the furniture of the rooms.

6. The water-closets should be reconstructed, so that the whole shall not be flushed together, but each can be separate, and with a proper supply of water. The number of them should be increased, and one placed near to the lying-in ward.

Appendix.  
CLERKENWELL.

7. The number of lavatories should be increased.
8. Hot and cold water should be supplied to each room, and an increased number of baths provided.
9. Air bricks, or perforated glass ventilators, should be placed in all the rooms, and particularly in those on the ground floor.
10. In no case should two sick adults occupy the same bed; and in the general sick wards only single beds should be placed.
11. In the lying-in ward, two women and their children should never be allowed to sleep together.
12. The lying-in ward should be enlarged. A day-room for lying-in cases should be provided; and as the cases are kept in the workhouse one month, they should be transferred to another room. It is desirable that the sick cases (other than those of a very temporary character occurring amongst the aged and infirm, and imbeciles), should be placed in proper and separated sick wards.
13. A dietary, consisting of meat and half-a-pint of beer daily, should be provided for the aged inmates.
14. Three additional paid nurses should be immediately appointed; and the payment of 2 s. per week for such persons is totally inadequate.
15. The salary and emoluments of the medical officer should be increased, and the guardians should provide all drugs.
16. A dispenser might be appointed, who could also act as clerk, or have charge of a part of the nursing.
17. Day-rooms should be provided for the insane, and for the aged and infirm sick and convalescent.
18. Ward No. 19, and others similarly placed on the upper floor, should have the ceilings raised into the roof.
19. The number of beds which should be allowed in the different wards, is as follows:

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
24	Men's insane ward - - -	10	5	Female, aged and infirm - -	19
19	Men's surgery ward - - -	12 or 16	31	Female, sick and infirm - -	18
19a	Ditto - - ditto - - -	7	33	Women's sick ward - - -	20
6	Lying-in ward - - -	5	34	Women's surgery ward - - -	6
8	Female, insane ward - - -	18	35	Men's sick ward - - -	20
9	Female, aged and infirm - -	19	3	Women's foul ward - - -	6

### No. 13.

### SHOREDITCH.

SHOREDITCH.

WE visited the Shoreditch Workhouse on April 19th, 1866; and were accompanied by the master and the medical officer.

This is a newly-built and handsome workhouse, and is situated in a suitable and not insalubrious locality. The drainage is said to be good. There are now 782 persons in the workhouse, but the building can receive 1,200.

There is not a detached infirmary; but the greater part of the sick are placed in one block of building. Certain wards are more particularly regarded as sick wards, and are occupied by cases of a mixed character; but the whole of the lunatics (amounting to 131 in number, and all, except one, able to leave their rooms), are accounted as sick; and sick cases are found to the extent of about one-half in the rooms for the aged and infirm. The lunatics of each sex are placed in suites of rooms apart from the other inmates, and have day rooms. There



There are not any infectious wards, since all cases of fever of whatever kind, and small-pox, are sent to the hospitals. Whenever a fever case is sent by the relieving officer, and only one of typhus fever has occurred in seven years, it is not passed from the receiving ward, but is at once seen by the medical officer, and then passed to the fever hospital. Every important case of syphilis is sent to the lock hospital, to which, as to the other institutions, the guardians subscribe.

There are separate schools to which the children are sent; but there is not a separate sick nursery for any that are kept in the workhouse.

The yards are new and clean. Small flower-beds and trees have been planted; and the space is as large as could be expected in a workhouse placed in London. There is a separate wash-house for foul and lying-in linen.

The following are the dimensions of the various sick-rooms proper, of the rooms in which sick cases are found, and of the apartments of the lunatics, with the number of beds which they contain:—

Appendix.  
—  
SHOREDITCH.  
—  
Size of rooms, and  
general character.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
4	Nursery - - - -	24 9	15 10	11 0	—
1	Lying-in ward - - -	42 6	19 7	11 7	13
2	Women's sick ward - -	55 0	19 7	11 6	25
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 5	19 7	11 6	25
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	54 2	19 9	11 6	25
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 4	20 2	11 6	25
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 5	20 3	11 6	25
7	Ditto, sick and infirm -	55 4	20 3	11 9	25
8	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 4	20 3	11 9	25
8	Men's sick ward - - -	55 3	20 2	11 9	25
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 3	20 3	11 9	25
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	54 3	20 3	11 9	25
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	54 3	20 3	11 9	25
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 3	19 9	11 6	25
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 4	19 9	11 6	25
1	Ditto - ditto - - -	55 4	19 9	11 6	25
3	Male imbeciles' day-room -	17 2	19 6	12 0	—
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 0	17 0	12 0	—
1	Ditto - ditto - - -	24 10	17 0	12 0	—
6	Ditto, bed-room - - -	20 3	17 0	12 0	9
5	Ditto, epileptic patients -	20 3	17 0	12 0	8
4	Ditto, imbeciles' bed-room	24 10	17 0	12 0	11
(a)	Ditto (room unnumbered)	9 0	17 2	12 0	3
(b)	Ditto - ditto - - -	9 0	17 2	12 0	4
9	Male imbeciles - - -	20 2	17 0	12 0	9
8	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 2	17 2	12 0	8
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	24 10	17 0	12 0	12
Female Imbeciles:					
9	Female bed-room - - -	9 0	17 0	12 0	4
8	Ditto - ditto - - -	9 0	17 0	12 0	4
7	Female imbeciles' bed-room	20 2	17 0	12 0	9
11	Ditto - ditto - - -	15 0	17 0	12 0	7
10	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 2	17 0	12 0	10
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	19 10	17 2	12 0	9
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 2	17 2	12 0	9
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	15 3	17 2	12 0	7
1	Ditto, day-room - - -	19 0	17 2	12 0	—
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	19 0	17 2	12 0	—
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	15 0	17 2	12 0	—

Hence it appears that the height and width of the sick wards are about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet and 20 feet, whilst in the wards of the imbecile and aged the width is reduced to about 17 feet.

## Appendix.

## SHOREDITCH.

The floor space, and the cubical space, allowed to each bed are as follow:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. Feet.</i>	<i>Cub. Feet.</i>
4	Nursery:		
1	Lying-in ward - - - - -	64	742
2	Women's sick ward - - - - -	43	495
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	499
4	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	492
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	513
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	516
7	Women's sick and infirm - - - - -	45	527
8	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	45	527
8	Men's sick ward - - - - -	45	524
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	526
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	516
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	516
4	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	502
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	503
1	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	503
3	Male imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	—	—
2	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	—	—
1	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	—	—
6	Male imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	38	459
5	Male epileptic patients - - - - -	43	516
4	Male imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	38	461
(a)	Male (room unnumbered) - - - - -	52	618
(b)	Ditto - - ditto - - - - -	39	464
9	Male imbeciles - - - - -	38	457
8	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	519
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	35	422
	Female Imbeciles:		
9	Female bed-room - - - - -	38	459
8	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	38	459
7	Female imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	38	457
11	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	36	437
10	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	34	411
4	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	38	454
5	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	38	462
6	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	37	449
1	Female imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	—	—
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	—	—
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	—	—

Hence it appears that the usual floor space and cubical space in the sleeping wards are 45 superficial feet, and 520 cubic feet for each person.

The size of the rooms is universally good, being about 12 feet in height, and of sufficient length and breadth. None are either too long or too small to be thoroughly useful. There is so great a similarity in them that they contain each 25 beds, 22 or 23 being occupied by patients, and two or three by the nurses and helpers; and in all respects the arrangements on the male and female side of the workhouse are almost identical.

The main body of the workhouse is built with a central corridor, running parallel with the front, and with wards placed on each side of it. Hence, excepting in the wards at the ends of the building, there are outer windows only on one side, but they are large, and extend nearly to the ceiling; and on the other side there are windows opening into the corridor. The height and large dimensions of the rooms, with the character and number of the windows, render the wards light and cheerful.

The corridors are open throughout; and having large windows at each end, besides the numerous windows leading to the wards on either hand, are also light and cheerful.

Water-closets, water-shoots, lavatories, and baths, all of the best kind, abound on every landing, and in connection with nearly every sick room. They are particularly abundant in the apartments of the lunatics. Hot and cold water are obtainable everywhere; and fire-pipes are placed on each landing.

The beds are of flock, which is teazed from time to time, and kept soft and in good condition. They are also fairly filled. The bedsteads are of iron (except in the wards for epileptics), with sacking, or iron bands, or laths. The iron bands are thick, and nearly rigid; and there is not a mattress between them and the bed.

The



The sheets and bedding in general are good; and the rugs are of wool, and not disagreeable in appearance.

There are screens and cupboards in every ward. There is a clock in some of the wards. Three roller towels are provided weekly for a ward of 25 beds. No small towels are supplied, and only two large and two small combs are supplied to each large ward. We were, however, informed that many of the inmates have their own small towels, combs, and brushes. Hot water dishes are used; and the joint of meat is brought up from the kitchen, and cut up in each ward.

There are benches, but at present without cushions, and chairs; also a few prints on the walls, and some illustrated periodicals, and religious books; but there are not any games for the ordinary sick. There are good looking-glasses in the wards, and even in the lavatories, and book-shelves in the wards.

The comforts of this class, which are provided for the lunatics and imbeciles are quite remarkable. The prints abound both in the rooms, and in the corridors. There is a large bagatelle board; and there are games of dominoes. There are also rabbits kept by them. On the female side the attendant plays an accordion; and not unfrequently the inmates dance an accompaniment.

The urinal in the lunatics' yard, on the men's side, allows the floor to be wet all over; and the water-closet, in the yard for the use of mothers with infants, is too distant to be convenient in wet weather.

The supply of water and gas is universal.

Every part of the rooms, furniture, and bedding was perfectly clean, except that on the labour bed. The sacking was stained, and one of the blankets had also a stain upon it. The labour bed is emptied of straw, and changed after every confinement, although there is a mackintosh sheeting, which, if used, should keep the bedding clean. One clean sheet is supplied weekly.

There are bugs in the workhouse, but they are much too few to be a serious annoyance.

The chimneys smoke and dirty the walls.

The ventilation of the sick wards in this new and excellent building is very defective; and is another instance of the very little attention which architects give to this important subject, in preparing their plans for the erection of public buildings.

On the outer side, it is dependant entirely upon the windows, and as the windows must be closed at night, there is a large portion of the 24 hours when they cannot act as ventilators. On the inner side, the windows, opening into the corridors, may act as ventilators; but they are in many instances shut, and particularly at night. There are also open fire-places, but there are not any special ventilators of any kind in any part of the sick rooms.

Hence, several rooms, as No. 4 for sick women, and No. 4 for sick men, were close at our visit; and all must be close during the night.

The corridors are no doubt very valuable ventilators, and particularly as there are gratings in all the floors; but I do not think that the movement of the air is quite so active as is desirable for ventilation with comfort.

There are 12 paid nurses for the inmates, who are engaged as follows:—

One female for receiving ward; salary 25 l., and rations.

Two females for female imbeciles; salary 25 l. and 18 l., and rations.

Two males for male imbeciles; salary 40 l. and 30 l., and rations.

Two females for female sick; salary 25 l. and 18 l., and rations.

Two females for male sick; salary 25 l. and 18 l., and rations.

The females for ordinary inmates; salary 25 l., 18 l., and 15 l., and rations.

The number of inmates who are under the care of these paid nurses, and the number which might be received into their respective departments, are as follows:—

Class of Nurses.	Number now in their Wards.	Number for which Accommodation exists.
Female imbeciles, two nurses - - -	59	60
Male imbeciles, two ditto - - - -	58	60
Female sick, two ditto - - - -	171	200
Male sick, two ditto - - - -	110	200
Ordinary sick, three, ditto - - -	about 360	about 680
About	758	1,200

Appendix.

SHOREDITCH.

Appendix.  
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SHOREDITCH.  
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Besides these, there are to each ward, one unpaid nurse, and one or two unpaid keepers who sleep in the wards, and receive extra rations, and some of them have a different kind of dress.

There are not any paid night nurses, who are devoted solely to that duty, but the assistant paid nurses attend upon the cases which need help during the night, and when thus engaged, do not do day duty also.

There is not a separate paid nurse for the lying-in ward, and the unpaid nurse is very infirm.

All stimulants are fetched from the stores by the paid nurses; and it is expected that they are all administered by them; but sometimes this duty may devolve upon the unpaid nurses.

The paid nurses are also expected to give the medicines, but no doubt the unpaid do some part of this duty.

All the unpaid nurses can read.

The master and medical officer were of opinion, that there should be another paid nurse for the sick men, and one for the sick women to act by day, and two others to act by night. There should also be a separate paid nurse for the lying-in ward; but as there are rarely more than eight lying-in women in the wards at one time, and only about 50 yearly, it is probable that she could also attend to a sick nursery, or some additional duty.

Medical officer.

The medical officer has been attached to the workhouse for 25 years. He resides near, and devotes about four hours daily (at many periods of the day and night) to the discharge of his duties. The guardians provide the drugs, but he dispenses them, and prepares from 25 to 30 bottles daily.

His salary is only 126 *l.* without extras of any kind, even for the midwifery and lunacy cases. Including all the imbeciles (131 in number), he has about 414 persons upon his books; a large portion of whom must receive his attention daily.

The cost of the drugs is from 50 *l.* to 60 *l.* yearly. Whatever food, stimulants, and medical appliances he orders, are readily supplied, and there is abundance of the latter. Baked or roast meat is supplied to the inmates thrice weekly; and about six gallons of port wine, (which is the chief stimulant ordered) are given weekly. The cost of the port wine is 15 *l.* 10 *s.* the quarter cask.

There should be a proper diet ordered for the imbeciles, and also for the aged and infirm, who exceed 60 years of age, containing meat and beer daily. This would very greatly reduce the number of persons who are placed upon his books, and lessen the time, (now 12 hours weekly) which must be devoted to enter the different cases. About 10 or 12 imbeciles would even then require attention daily; and he thinks it would be needful for him to place many imbeciles upon his list.

He is of opinion, that his salary should be increased to 200 or 250 guineas yearly, including extras, and that a dispenser should be provided. If the medical officer were to devote his whole time to the performance of the duties of this office, he should receive good board and lodging, and 300 guineas per year. If, with the present plan, an assistant should be required to reside within the workhouse, he should be selected by the medical officer.

He makes the quarterly totals of his sick cases, by adding the number of the new cases which occur each week, to the number of cases which were in hand at the end of the previous quarter.

Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse:—

¶ 1. The ventilation should be immediately and universally improved. There should be in each outer wall, between or above the windows, large air bricks, with the openings covered with perforated zinc; or the upper half of one of the upper row of panes in each window, should be of perforated glass, or a strip of perforated zinc four to six inches in depth, should be placed within the window frame at the top of the upper sash, plugged, so that it must remain open to the depth of two inches. The windows leading to the corridors, should be plugged open to the extent of one inch, so that they cannot be entirely closed by night or day.

Some openings for ventilation should be made at the top of the corridor.

2. There should be two additional paid nurses employed by day, and two appointed for night duty; one of each class for the two sexes. There should be a special paid nurse for the lying-in ward and the sick nursery.

3. The medical officer's salary should be increased, and in addition, there should be the usual fees for midwifery, vaccination, and lunacy certificates.

On a future appointment, it would probably be better that an assistant should reside within the workhouse, and act under the direction of the medical officer.

4. A dispenser should be appointed, who could also aid in the discharge of other duties.

5. They purpose to reduce the beds from 25 to 20 in the large wards, during the summer-time.



6. A sick nursery should be provided.
7. A sick kitchen would be very convenient.
8. A larger number of prints, periodicals, interesting books, and games, should be provided. Cushions should be placed upon the benches, and more arm chairs provided. The lunatics also require a rocking-horse, and some other games.
9. Each patient should have a towel, and a comb and brush.
10. The bedsteads are too narrow. New ones should not be less than two feet six inches to two feet eight inches in width.
11. Attention should be given to cure the smoky chimneys.
12. The walls should be coloured.
13. A special diet for the aged and infirm, and imbeciles, with meat and beer daily, should be provided.
14. The number of beds which each ward should contain, is as follows:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
4	Nursery - - - -	—	4	Male imbeciles' bed room -	—
1	Lying-in ward - - -	12	(a)	Male (room unnu bered) -	—
2	Women's sick ward - - -	18 each.	(b)	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
3	Ditto - ditto - - -		9	Male imbeciles - - -	—
4	Ditto - ditto - - -		8	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
5	Ditto - ditto - - -		7	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
6	Ditto - ditto - - -				
7	Women's sick and infirm -				
8	Ditto - ditto - - -				
8	Men's sick ward - - -				
7	Ditto - ditto - - -		9	Female imbeciles' bed room -	—
6	Ditto - ditto - - -		8	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
5	Ditto - ditto - - -		7	Female imbeciles' bed room -	—
4	Ditto - ditto - - -		11	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
3	Ditto - ditto - - -		10	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
1	Ditto - ditto - - -		4	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
3	Male imbeciles' day room -	—	5	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	—	6	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
1	Ditto - ditto - - -	—	1	Female imbeciles' day room -	—
6	Male imbeciles' bed room -	—	2	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
5	Male epileptic patients -	—	3	Ditto - ditto - - -	—

No. 14.

# WHITECHAPEL.

WE visited this workhouse on the 20th April 1866, and were accompanied by the master and matron; and also by the medical officer of each side of the workhouse.

This is a comparatively new workhouse, surrounded by narrow streets, small houses, and factories. The drainage is said to be good. A very strong drain smell was perceived in the basement, under the ward for male imbeciles, and used by that class as a washhouse; but whether this was due to the absence of a trap, which we found off the sink, or to some more permanent and serious state of the drains, we could not ascertain.

It consists of two large blocks of buildings, which run parallel to each other; and are separated by an interval, in which are the very small yards, and certain offices. The building in the rear is fireproof, and, except the central part, is devoted to the sick of both sexes. A new addition has been made to it very recently, by which accommodation is, with a few exceptions, now furnished for all the sick men; but, as the number of sick women is much greater than that of the men, many of the latter are placed in the front building.

The female imbeciles are placed on the ground floor in the building in the rear; whilst the males are placed on the ground floor in the front building.

There are not any infectious wards, since all fever and small-pox cases are sent to the hospitals. Cases of syphilis are admitted; and but few are sent to the Lock Hospital. The children are placed in a separate school; but no less than 68 (of whom 49 are over 12 years), are now in the workhouse, and are not sent to school.

There is not a separate sick nursery; and hence we found many children in the rooms with

Appendix.  
WHITECHAPEL.

with adults, and in some instances a mother and her child occupied a narrow bed, barely sufficient for the woman alone. In one instance, the infant, sleeping with her mother in the general ward, had measles.

There are 692 inmates, of whom 53 are female imbeciles, 24 male imbeciles, and 68 children.

The workhouse is heated chiefly by hot water, which circulates through a coil of pipes on each landing; and through a large pipe running along one or two sides of each ward. There are also open fire-places.

There is high and low pressure water supply; but as the mains of the water company are, as we were informed, too small to supply sufficient water during the period when the supply is on, the cisterns in the workhouse are not sufficiently filled, and the supply is defective.

The yards are of the following dimensions, and are of irregular shape, and very small:—

AIRING YARDS.

	Area.	
Imbecile women's yard - - - -	83	square yards.
Able-bodied women's yards - - - -	622	"
Able-bodied men's yard - - - -	555	"
Male imbecile's yard - - - -	177	"
Dead-house yard - - - -	134	"
Laundry yard - - - -	285	"
TOTAL - - -	1,856	"

There are also exercising grounds upon the top of each block of building. The floor is of asphalt; and the area is well protected by a wall and iron railings. The chimney stacks are, however, so low that the smoke blows down upon this area, as well as down the chimney, and is disagreeable.

There is a small day room for the female and another for the male imbeciles; but there are none for the general sick. Wards Nos. 39, 40, 46, and 47 are, however, very wide, and allow the use of them as day rooms for certain women, who sleep in adjoining dormitories.

Size of rooms, and  
general character.

The following are the dimensions of the rooms, with the beds which they now contain; many of which, however, as wards 83, 79, 74, and 75 are empty:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	No. of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
69	Women's sick ward - - -	42 8	16 7	11 6	16
66	Ditto - - ditto - - -	42 8	16 7	11 10	17
65	Ditto - - ditto - - -	42 8	16 7	11 10	17
63	Ditto - - ditto - - -	42 8	16 7	12 10	15
64	Women's lying-in ward - - -	42 8	16 7	12 10	13
61	Female imbeciles - - -	26 0	16 5	12 10	12
62	Ditto - - ditto - - -	26 0	16 5	12 10	12
	Day room adjoining - - -	16 0	16 4	12 10	—
18	Women's sick ward - - - Chronic Cases	31 0	16 2	12 10	12
43	Women's itch ward - - -	12 0	16 8	11 6	5
40	Women's aged and infirm - - -	37 0	33 0	11 6	24
39	Ditto - - ditto - - -	37 0	33 0	11 6	24
42	Women's (night only) - - -	32 0	16 3	11 6	16
41	Women's sick ward - - -	32 0	16 3	11 6	14
44	Women, aged and infirm (night only)	31 3	16 3	11 6	16
45	Ditto - - ditto - - -	31 3	16 3	11 6	16
46	Women's sick ward - - -	37 0	33 0	11 6	24
47	Ditto - - ditto - - -	37 0	33 0	11 6	24
82	Men's sick ward - - -	32 6	16 4	13 0	10
83	Men's ditto (empty) - - -	32 6	16 4	13 0	10
84	Men's sick ward - - -	45 10	16 4	13 0	15
85	Ditto - - ditto - - -	47 2	16 4	13 0	14
		— 9 0	5 0	6 0	



No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
81	Men's sick and infirm - - -	47 2	16 4	12 0	14
		— 9 0	5 0	6 0	
80	Ditto - - ditto - - -	46 0	16 6	12 0	15
79	Ditto - - ditto (empty) - -	32 6	16 6	12 0	10
78	Ditto - - ditto - - -	32 6	16 6	12 0	10
77	Ditto - - ditto - - -	46 0	16 6	11 3	15
74	Ditto - - ditto (empty) - -	32 9	16 6	11 3	10
75	Ditto - - ditto (empty) - -	32 9	16 6	11 3	10
76	Men's, aged sick - - -	47 2	16 6	11 3	14
	Male Imbeciles : - - -	— 9 0	5 0	6 0	
	Male imbeciles' day room - -	24 0	18 0	12 10	—
3	Male imbeciles' bed room - -	24 0	18 0	12 10	12
6	Men's foul ward - - -	24 2	18 0	11 10	10
5	Ditto - - ditto - - -	10 0	18 0	11 10	3
4	Ditto - - ditto - - -	24 2	18 0	11 10	10
9	Men's itch ward - - -	24 2	18 0	10 9	10
8	Ditto - - ditto (empty) - -	10 0	18 0	10 9	3
7	Men's sick ward - - -	24 2	18 0	10 9	10

Appendix.  
WHITECHAPEL.

Hence it appears that the usual width and height of the rooms are  $16\frac{1}{2}$ , and from  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to 13 feet; whilst some are of double width.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each sex are as follows:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
69	Women's sick ward - - -	44	509
66	Ditto - ditto - - -	42	492
65	Ditto - ditto - - -	42	492
63	Ditto - ditto - - -	47	605
64	Women's lying in-ward - -	54	699
61	Female imbeciles' dormitory -	36	457
62	Ditto - ditto - - -	36	457
	Day room adjoining.		
18	Women's sick ward - - - (Chronic cases)	42	536
43	Women's itch ward - - -	40	460
40	Women's, aged and infirm - -	51	585
39	Ditto - ditto - - -	51	585
42	Women's (night only) - - -	33	374
41	Women's sick ward - - -	37	427
44	Women, aged and infirm (night only)	32	365
45	Ditto - ditto - - -	32	365
46	Women's sick ward - - -	51	585
47	Ditto - ditto - - -	51	585
82	Men's sick ward - - -	52	690
83	Ditto - ditto (empty) - -	52	690
84	Men's sick ward - - -	50	649
85	Ditto - ditto - - -	52	696
81	Men's, sick and infirm - - -	52	641
80	Ditto - ditto - - -	51	607
79	Ditto - ditto (empty) - -	54	644
78	Ditto - ditto - - -	54	644
77	Ditto - ditto - - -	51	569
74	Ditto - ditto (empty) - -	54	608
75	Ditto - ditto (empty) - -	54	608
76	Men's, aged sick - - -	52	606
	Male Imbeciles :		
	Male imbeciles' day room - -	—	—
3	Male imbeciles' bed room - -	36	462
6	Men's foul ward - - -	44	515
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	60	710
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	44	515
9	Men's itch ward - - -	44	468
8	Ditto - ditto (empty) - -	60	645
7	Men's sick ward - - -	44	468

Appendix.  
 ———  
 WHITECHAPEL.  
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Hence the usual floor space and cubical space to each bed in the sick wards are from 42 to 54 superficial feet, and from 500 to 600 cubic feet. They are less in the imbecile wards.

The construction of the building in the rear, or the infirmary proper, is that of a series of rooms placed side by side without an intervening corridor, and with staircases and cross passages affording facilities of entrance and exit at the end of each ward. The rooms are lofty, and sufficiently long, but they are much too narrow.

The building in the front has a corridor intervening between the lateral wards, through about one-half or one-third of its length, and certain wards, which are the whole width of the two wards, through which all persons must pass who would go to the rooms beyond. These are the rooms which are also used as day rooms, and which, if divided into two by a partition wall, running from the front to the back (not parallel with the front, as in the other parts of the building), would make two wards larger and wider than the ordinary wards.

With the exception of these large wards the rooms are built with outer windows on one side only; but on the other side there are large openings in the partition wall, or windows looking into the corridor, both of which admit light; and, with a few exceptions, all the wards are light and cheerful. The wards are generally much too narrow, but they are built with right angles, and are free from projections, except in the cases where the bath is placed in the room, and boarded off; or where a nurse's bed is similarly isolated.

The walls are chiefly undrawn, and at present are coloured white.

The wards, which are exceptional in character, are those devoted to the male imbeciles, and to itch, and infectious cases, all of which are darkish and cheerless.

Bedding and furni-  
 ture.

The state of the sick wards is at the present moment transitional, since the Guardians have only very recently opened a large part of the building; and the master has not yet been able, during his term of office, to repair defects which were left by his predecessor.

Hence we found many defects, to some of which a remedy is being or about to be applied.

The bedding is of flock, and in some wards was lumpy, and much too small in quantity. In others the flock was in good condition; and the beds were sufficiently full. There is not, however, a machine by which the flock can be teased, or any sufficient arrangement of labour by which a constant rotation of well teased and filled beds is maintained. The master, not having the whole services of a clerk to aid him in his clerical work, and the number of paid nurses being much too small, is unable to give proper time and thought to the superintendence of this and other matters.

The sheets and bed coverings are good; but the counterpanes being of the old fashion, and of blue cotton will soon lose their colour, and look old. There are, however, woollen counterpanes in some of the wards.

The bedsteads are of iron, with iron laths, or with sacking. Their width is two feet six inches, and their length six feet; but there are a proportion in every ward of bedsteads six feet six inches in length, and with sacking.

With very few exceptions, indeed, there are no lockers for the patients, and no cupboards within the wards in which the crockery and utensils may be placed. There are very few chairs indeed, and those which are now being supplied are whitish, unstained, and unvarnished, and look anything but comfortable. There are a few forms, and there are benches with backs in some of the wards, but there are not any cushions upon them. A rug is laid upon the floor, before the fire, which adds to the look of comfort. There are not any book-shelves or looking-glasses. There are a very few prints in some parts of the workhouse, but none in others; and there are scarcely any illustrated periodicals or entertaining books provided. The only books which we saw were old and repulsive in appearance.

There are not any games of any kind for the general sick, but dominoes are provided for the imbeciles.

Altogether there is an air of want of comfort in reference to the furnishing of the wards, and, indeed, excepting the beds, which are necessary, there is scarcely any furniture.

There are plenty of water closets and lavatories on the landings, with hot and cold water; but within the rooms the arrangements for washing are defective. There are one or two washhand basins for each ward, which are chiefly of zinc; and some of them begin already to have the dirty appearance which such basins always attain. Only three roller towels are provided for a large ward weekly. There is also one comb provided, and about one pound of soap is supplied for cleaning the furniture, &c., and for washing the inmates. Some of the inmates have their own towels, and it is understood, however inconsistently, that the nurses, in addition to their other duties, wash the towels as often as may be necessary.

Such inmates as are able to leave the ward wash at the sinks which are placed in the passages. Underneath the sink is a cupboard, in which the crockery and buckets are left, and which are necessarily close.

A very convenient table, to be fixed to the bed of an inmate, who cannot leave the bed, has been supplied.

Cleanliness.

We found every part of the bedding, furniture, and rooms fairly clean, except the ticking of the labour bed, which was very dirty, and ought to have been washed long ago. The mackintosh sheeting was much too small, and allowed the bed to become dirty.

Two sheets are changed weekly.



The attempt, whether successful or not, has been made to ventilate this workhouse throughout.

There are several ventilators, of the size of two bricks, placed in the outer wall of every ward, and also in the passages. They are defended by a cover, which directs the current upwards, and may entirely close the opening. On the inner side of each ward the openings or windows in the partition walls are intended for the same purpose, but the windows and the ventilators also were in very many instances shut. There are also open fire-places; and the distribution of warm air by the hot water pipes would tend further to cause movement in the air.

Several of the rooms were close, and all must be close during the night and in the early morning.

The ventilation of the imbecile wards, both male and female, and of the itch ward, was very defective; and, in practice, the present arrangements throughout the building are defective. The health of the male superintendent of the imbeciles was said to have suffered from this cause.

The windows, being of a circular form at the top, are not well adapted to aid ventilation.

There are four paid nurses in the workhouse. One female nurse has charge of all the sick cases, amounting to from 150 to 200 cases. She also attends to all midwifery, except unusual cases; and of these about 117 pass through the lying-in ward yearly. She fetches the stimulants from the matron, and places them by the bedsides of the patients; and she is also presumed to see to the administration of this and of the medicines. She receives 24*l.* yearly and rations. Nursing.

There is also a female assistant nurse; but nearly all her time is occupied in attending to the persons entering and leaving the reception ward, and in the care of the clothes of the inmates, and she can do but little besides. Although called an assistant she has not time to assist the nurse. She receives 18*l.* per year and rations.

There is also a female nurse for the female imbeciles receiving 20*l.*, and a male superintendent for male imbeciles receiving 26*l.* yearly and rations, the former of whom has charge of 40 to 50, and the latter of from 20 to 25 cases.

There is not a paid night nurse, nor a separate nurse for the lying-in ward.

One unpaid nurse and one helper are allotted to each ward, who receive extra food. The former must of necessity give the stimulants and the medicines in many cases, and some of them cannot read the directions.

It is said that some of the pauper nurses demand money, beer, &c., from the patients.

There are two medical officers to the workhouse, one for the female and the other for the male inmates; and each, in addition, has a district for out-door medical relief. Medical officers.

The medical officer for the females attends on an average about one hour daily. He visits every sick ward, except the foul ward, and imbecile wards daily, and sees about 50 patients at each visit; he sees also about 20 patients daily at their own homes, and attends about 50 daily at the dispensary. The other medical officer attends on every alternate day, and devotes about 10 hours weekly to his duties within the workhouse.

The guardians find the drugs, and also a dispenser, for both the in-door and out-door poor.

The nurse has acted as midwife, but does not appear to have been trained to the rules; and the medical officer does not usually attend the ordinary cases.

The salary for the duties, both within and without the workhouse, is 125*l.* to each officer; and it is probably divided into 75*l.* for the workhouse and 50*l.* for the district. 10*s.* 6*d.* is also paid for each lunacy certificate; and this amounts to about 10 guineas yearly to each officer. There are not any other extras.

The medical officer to the females considered that the salary should be 100*l.* to 110*l.* and that to the males 150*l.*

They also considered that there should be two extra paid nurses appointed for the sick, females, and two paid night nurses.

Whatever extra diet and stimulants and whatever medical appliances they order are readily supplied; and they can order roasted as well as boiled meat. There is no water bed, and very little waterproof sheeting.

The acute and more important cases are placed in the proper sick wards.

There are many and serious defects in this workhouse, and the following are the recommendations which I make in reference to them. Recommendations.

1. The ventilation should be improved by opening all the ventilators, and by covering the inside with perforated zinc. The windows in the partition walls should be plugged open. Air should be admitted by openings over the doors from the passages covered with widely-perforated zinc.

Appendix.  
 WHITECHAPEL.

That of the male imbecile and itch wards, and of the basement beneath, requires careful and immediate attention, and I doubt very much whether they can be made healthful.

The ventilation of the corridors and of the passages leading from the front needs improvement.

2. The furniture and appliances throughout the sick wards should be largely increased by the addition of single and arm chairs, of a comfortable form and appearance; benches, with backs and cushions; lockers between every two beds; book-shelves; pottery wash-hand basins; towel, soap, comb, and brush to each inmate; prints, periodicals, books, and games; a larger supply of cloaks for those who sit up in bed; cupboards, and looking-glasses.

3. The beds should be properly filled, and the flock properly teased.

4. Water or air-beds and macintosh sheeting should be supplied.

5. The day room for female lunatics is too small. The apartments for male lunatics, and the yard devoted to them, should be changed, or the lunatics removed from the workhouse.

6. The chimneys should have pots placed upon them, and sheds are required upon the roofs.

7. At least two additional paid day nurses, two night nurses, and a nurse for the lying-in ward and nursery should be appointed. All medicines and stimulants should be given by them.

8. A sick nursery should be arranged, and the sick children treated there, and there should be better classification of the sick.

9. As the screams from the lying-in ward are heard in the adjoining rooms it would be much better that the position of that ward should be changed.

10. More care should be taken to keep the labour-bed clean.

11. The salaries of the medical officers should be increased; and, in addition, the medical officer, on the women's side, should attend all cases of midwifery, and receive the extra fees. There should be extras for vaccination and lunacy certificates. They should, I think, devote more time to the discharge of their duties, and so long as they have charge of a district also their whole time should be given up to the service of the Guardians. Hence a re-arrangement of their contracts and emoluments should be made.

12. Day-rooms should be provided for the convalescents and aged and infirm.

13. Whenever a woman and infant sleep together there should be a wider bed provided.

14. Kitchens near to the sick rooms, in which the food could be kept hot, and in which the washing-up can be effected, would be very valuable.

15. The master and matron are both too much engaged to permit them to discharge their duties efficiently, and the former should be relieved from all clerical work.

16. The following is the number of beds, which should be placed in the several sick wards:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
69	Women's sick ward -	12 or 14	82	Men's sick ward - - -	8 or 10
66	Ditto - ditto - -	12 or 14	83	Men's sick ward (empty) -	8 or 10
65	Ditto - ditto - -	12 or 14	84	Men's sick ward - - -	13
63	Ditto - ditto - -	12 or 14	85	Ditto - ditto - - -	12 or 13
64	Women's lying-in ward -	10 or 12	81	Men's sick and infirm - -	12 or 13
61	Female imbeciles - -	-	80	Ditto - ditto - - -	13 or 14
62	Ditto - ditto - -	-	79	Men's sick and infirm (empty)	10
			78	Men's sick and infirm - -	10
	Day room adjoining -	-	77	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
18	Women's sick ward -	8 or 10	74	Men's sick and infirm (empty)	8 or 10
	(Chronic cases).		75	Ditto - ditto - (empty)	8 or 10
			76	Men's aged sick - - -	12 or 13
43	Women's itch ward -	3		Male Imbeciles:	
40	Women, aged and infirm	18		Male imbeciles' day room -	-
39	Ditto - ditto - -	18		Male imbeciles' bed room -	-
42	Women (night only) -	-	3	Men's foul ward - - -	8
41	Women (sick ward) -	8 or 10	6	Ditto - ditto - - -	2 or 3
44	Women, aged and infirm, (night only).	-	5	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
			4	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 8
45	Ditto - ditto - -	-	9	Men's ditto (empty) - -	2 or 3
46	Women's sick ward -	18	8	Men's sick ward - - -	8
47	Women's sick ward -	19	7		



## No. 15.

## MILE END OLD TOWN.

WE visited the Mile End Old Town Workhouse on 21st April 1866, and were accompanied by the master and clerk. Subsequently we met the medical officers.

MILE END OLD  
TOWN.

This is a very extensive and newly-erected workhouse, and is situated near to the borders of the town. It occupies a very large plot of land, and consists of, 1, The body of the workhouse, in which the ordinary inmates are placed; 2, The general infirmary; 3, The infirmary for children; 4, The building for the lunatics and imbeciles; and, 5, The schools for the children. All these are detached buildings, and the whole are handsome and highly creditable.

The sick are placed in two infirmaries, and also in two wards in the body of the workhouse, in one of which are three sick aged men, and in the other about 20 aged and bed-ridden women.

The lunatics are not accounted as sick; and when they fall into serious illness they are removed to the infirmary, unless they are violent or noisy.

Fever and small-pox cases are sent to the hospitals. All violent lunatics are sent to an asylum; but noisy and dirty ones are retained.

There are day-rooms for the imbeciles and children only.

The drainage is said to be good; and the supply of hot and cold water and gas excellent.

The number of adult inmates of all classes is 542; and there are 170 children in the schools, and in their infirmary. Of the latter about 17 are now in their infirmary, and three or four in bed. The dormitories are almost always used as night rooms only.

The following are the dimensions of the various sick wards, with the number of beds which they contain:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	No. of Beds.
GENERAL INFIRMARY:		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
16	Women's itch ward - - - - -	16 0	12 0	10 9	4
	Women's convalescent ward - - - - -	36 10	15 8	10 8	15
		+11 8	5 9	10 8	
19	Women's foul ward - - - - -	25 6	9 0	10 8	4
18	Women's sick ward - - - - -	33 8	18 4	13 0	11
14	Women's fever ward - - - - -	16 8	10 2	10 8	4
12	Women's sick ward - - - - -	37 3	16 8	10 8	16
		+11 8	5 9	10 8	
12(a)	Empty - - - - -	16 6	12 5	10 8	4
11	Men's itch ward - - - - -	16 0	12 0	10 8	4
10	Men's sick ward - - - - -	36 10	16 0	10 8	14
		+11 10	5 9	10 8	
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	33 6	18 2	13 0	12
1	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	16 9	10 0	10 8	4
3	Men's sick ward - - - - -	37 3	16 5	10 8	16
		11 10	5 9	10 8	
3(a)	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	16 5	12 6	10 8	5
CHILDREN'S INFIRMARY:					
11	Receiving ward - - - - -	16 10	14 0	10 6	6
7	Itch ward - - - - -	12 0	12 0	10 6	6
6	Girl's sick ward - - - - -	12 0	12 0	10 6	3
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	17 4	14 2	10 6	6
4	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	16 0	14 0	10 6	6
3	Boy's sick ward - - - - -	16 3	14 0	10 6	6
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	16 3	14 0	10 6	6
IN MAIN BUILDING:					
4	Women, infirm and bed-ridden - - -	52 8	18 8	14 4	22
		+52 8	15 8	3 6	
8	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	20 0	18 9	11 4	6
		+20 0	15 9	3 6	

## Appendix.

MILE END OLD  
TOWN.

Hence it appears that the usual height of the wards is from 10 to 11 feet, whilst the width varies much.

The floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed are as follows :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor space allowed to each Person.	Cubical space allowed to each Person.
	GENERAL INFIRMARY :	<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cubic ft.</i>
	Women's itch ward - - - - -	48	516
16	Women's convalescent ward - - - - -	43	458
19	Women's foul ward - - - - -	58	612
18	Women's sick ward - - - - -	56	611
14	Women's fever ward - - - - -	42	452
12	Women's sick ward - - - - -	43	459
12(a)	Empty - - - - -	51	546
11	Men's itch ward - - - - -	48	512
10	Men's sick ward - - - - -	47	501
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	659
1	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	447
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	453
3(a)	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	41	438
	CHILDREN'S INFIRMARY :		
11	Receiving ward - - - - -	39	413
7	Itch ward - - - - -	24	252
6	Girls' sick ward - - - - -	48	504
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	41	430
4	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	37	392
3	Boys' sick ward - - - - -	38	398
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	38	398
	IN MAIN BUILDING :		
4	Women, infirm, and bed-ridden - - - - -	45	638
8	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	63	892

Hence it is shown that the usual floor space and cubical space in the infirmary for adults is 41 to 58 superficial feet, and 438 to 659 cubic feet, and 6 of 13 wards for adults offer less than the space required by the Poor Law Board !

Size of rooms and  
general character.

The size of the rooms in the infirmary varies much : and upon, the whole, it is to be regretted, that an infirmary so recently erected should be upon so small a scale.

It consists of two sides, devoted respectively to males and females, whilst in the centre is an open area for light and air. On each side are the corridors, with lavatories, bath-room, and water-closets.

There are on each side three small rooms, two of which are devoted, on the women's side, to the treatment of itch and syphylitic cases ; but, on the men's side, there are not any cases of syphilis. These rooms are very small, and not well adapted to the treatment of the sick. There are also, on each side, three large wards, two of which are irregular in form, and placed over each other, and the third, a large square room, opens to the roof.

There is also a moderately sized room adjoining No. 12, and called No. 12 (a), which is not now in use.

The syphylitic ward is darkish, and very dull ; but all the other wards are light and cheerful.

Bedding and furni-  
ture.

The beds are of flock, which is not kept so well teased as it should be, and many are much too thin.

The bedsteads are of iron, and are constructed to turn up. Some have the usual laths of thin iron, and are elastic ; but others have thick ribs, which do not yield. On none are there mattresses. The size is 6 feet 2 inches by 2 feet 8 inches.

A child was laid upon the floor lest she should fall out of bed ; showing the want of a proper bed for such cases.

The linen and bed coverings are good ; but the rugs have not a cheerful appearance.

There are no lockers ; but, instead of them, there were no less than seven or eight night-stools in one ward, which were used for ordinary seats. There are but few chairs, and there are not any benches with cushions. There are not any bookshelves, and but very few prints. There are illustrated periodicals, and entertaining as well as religious books. There are not any games, and we were informed that only idle young people cared for them.

There are cupboards in which the crockery is placed, and the larger utensils are kept under the sinks in the corridors.

Two or three pottery basins, with three roller towels and two small towels, are supplied to each ward, and a little soap is given to each person.

Cleanliness.

All the linen, wards, and furniture were clean. We could not examine the labour-bed, as an inmate occupied it, who had only just been confined.

Ventilation.

The ventilation is carried on by open fire-places, and windows, of which several divisions open, and swing upon a central pin. There are also windows leading to the corridors, which



which open in a similar manner. In other wards, there is a ventilator, which leads to the outside, as in the dark syphilitic ward, but it was closed; or there are openings in the ceiling, covered by perforated zinc. In the children's infirmary there are also openings over the doors, which lead from the corridors, and in the lunacy ward there are round ventilators placed in the side of the walls, at about the height of a man, which lead to the outside.

The ventilation in the bed rooms on the ground floor, and the lunacy ward, was very defective. The latter was occupied by dirty cases, and the windows were arranged very irregularly. That of the syphilitic ward, and of all the small wards, must also be imperfect whenever the windows are closed.

There are five paid nurses for the sick. One, a female, is attached to the infirmary, and her husband is the male attendant on the imbeciles. There is also a female for the female imbeciles. The wages of these are 30 *l.*, 30 *l.*, and 25 *l.*, with rations.

There are also two nurses in the children's infirmary, who receive about 6 *l.* per year, besides rations and clothes.

There is an unpaid nurse, with two helpers, to each ward.

There are not any paid night nurses, but there are five unpaid night nurses, who, in addition to their day rations, with sugar and tea, have half-a-pound of meat, six ounces of bread, and one pint of porter nightly. Of these, one is devoted to the No. 4 ward for aged and infirm women, one to the females, and one to the males in the infirmary, and two to the imbeciles.

We were informed that the unpaid nurses will, when they are able, exchange their tea for the beer of the patients.

There are two medical officers, who divide the medical care of the sick in the workhouse, and also in the whole parish, between them. One of them has charge of the male infirmary, and the main building, including the lying-in ward, whilst the other attends to the females in the infirmary, the lunatics of both sexes, the sick children in the children's infirmary, and the children in the schools.

They devote their whole time to these duties, and are not permitted to engage in private practice. They do not reside within the workhouse. They are both married, and have held their present offices for some years. Their salaries, for both the workhouse and the district, have just been increased from 170 *l.* to 200 *l.* each yearly. One of them attends the midwifery cases in the workhouse, and both of them those occurring in their districts, amounting to about 40 per year, without any extra payment. The extras for vaccinations amounted last year to about 11 *l.* to the one, and about 37 *l.* to the other. They have not the advantage of payment for lunacy certificates; but the unusual course is followed of employing another medical gentleman to discharge that duty.

The time which they devote to their duties is about two hours each in the workhouse, and about five hours each in their districts daily.

They do not think that there is quite sufficient accommodation in the infirmary. It would be better to have an infectious ward, although cases of that class are usually sent to the hospitals. It is also advisable that the cases of sickness which occur within the main building should be placed in the infirmary.

In reference to nursing, they are of opinion that a paid nurse is required for the cases of sickness in the main building, one for the males in the infirmary, and one for the lying-in ward.

There are at present two paid nurses for the imbeciles, who should be retained; and the nurse who now takes charge of the whole infirmary should be devoted to the care of the females who are sick. Instead of the present ill-paid nurses in the children's infirmary, it would be better to appoint a properly paid nurse.

Three paid night nurses are also required, viz., two for the infirmary, and one for the sick cases in the main building.

They consider that the present system of medical attendance works well, and they are satisfied with their position and emoluments, except that they wish to be relieved from attention to the midwifery cases. The present midwife should attend all cases of midwifery.

The guardians provide all drugs and a dispenser for both the in-door and out-door sick cases.

Whatever food, stimulants, and medical appliances are ordered by the medical officers are readily obtained.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse:

Recommendations.

1. It is, I believe, contemplated to enlarge the infirmary, and in doing so it would be better to make the rooms larger and more lofty.

2. Proper air brick ventilators are required in nearly all the rooms, with a communication with the outer air, and with the inner openings covered by perforated zinc. The windows leading to the corridors should be plugged open, so as to allow an opening of half-an-inch to exist permanently; and until proper ventilators are provided, one of the upper panes in the outer windows, which are made to open, should be fixed a little open. Special attention is needed to the dirty imbecile ward.

3. The beds should be properly filled, and the flock kept properly teased; and a mattress should be used on those bedsteads which have rigid bottoms.

4. No person, whether child or otherwise, should be allowed to lie upon a bed placed upon the floor, without a bedstead.

Appendix.

MILE END OLD TOWN.

Nursing.

Medical officers.

## Appendix.

MILE END OLD  
TOWN.

5. More cheerful and woollen rugs are desirable.
6. There should be an increased number of paid nurses, as recommended by the medical officers.
7. The medical officers are not even now sufficiently paid for the use of their whole time. Either they should live within the workhouse, and receive board and lodging in addition to their present salary, or the salary should be increased.
8. Lockers, chairs, cushioned seats, book-shelves, looking glasses, and games, are required. More convenient seats, and also sheds, should be placed in the sick yards.
9. More room is required in the infirmary.
10. A special dietary for the aged and infirm and lunatics should be provided.
11. The number of beds to be placed in the different wards is as follows:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
GENERAL INFIRMARY :			CHILDREN'S INFIRMARY :		
	Women's itch ward - -	2 or 3	11	Receiving ward - - -	—
16	Women's convalescent ward -	10 or 11	7	Itch ward - - -	—
19	Women's foul ward - -	3 or 4	6	Girls' sick ward - - -	—
18	Women's sick ward - -	10	5	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
14	Women's fever ward - -	2	4	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
12	Women's sick ward - -	10 or 11	3	Boys' sick ward - - -	—
12(a)	Empty - - -	2 or 3	2	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
11	Men's itch ward - -	2 or 3			
10	Men's sick ward - -	10 or 11			
7	Ditto - ditto - -	10			
1	Ditto - ditto - -	2 or 3	4	IN MAIN BUILDING :	
3	Ditto - ditto - -	10 or 11	8	Women, infirm and bed-ridden	16 or 18
3(a)	Ditto - ditto - -	2 or 3		Women, lying-in ward - -	5 or 6

No. 16.

## CITY OF LONDON.

CITY OF LONDON.

WE visited the City of London Workhouse on 24th April 1866, and were accompanied by the nurse. The master and medical officer arrived before the inspection had been completed.

This is a comparatively new, very large, well arranged, and excellent workhouse. It is situated near to the borders of the town, in a salubrious position, and upon a large and well drained plot of land.

There is a detached infirmary for the general sick, which contains 162 beds, of which nine were empty at our visit; also detached buildings and grounds for male and female lunatics respectively, of whom there are now about 60 females and 43 males; and there are several large wards in the body of the workhouse, in which are aged and infirm persons, of whom some are sick. The proportion of sick women to sick men is about as two to one.

There are not usually any fever and small pox wards, since those cases are sent to the hospitals; but sometimes one or more cases of fever are admitted, and they are placed in wards with other cases; and two beds are allowed to each case. If a case of scarlet fever were to occur, it would be placed in like manner with the old people, and two beds allowed to it. There are two cases of itch occupying a ward, in which are other cases. There is no sick nursery, and hence the children, when ill, are placed with adults.

Violent lunatics are removed to asylums; but other cases are retained at the workhouse.

The children are sent to a district school.

There are not any day rooms, except in the apartments for lunatics; but when the aged and infirm improve, they are removed from the infirmary, and placed in wards in the body of the workhouse.

There are self-acting water-closets, sinks, lavatories, and baths on the different corridors, and in sufficient abundance.

The water supply, both hot and cold, is abundant in all parts of the infirmary.

There is gas in all the rooms and corridors; and the wards and corridors are warmed in the winter by large steam pipes.

The



The following are the dimensions of the several wards, with the number of beds in the infirmary, and in the apartments for lunatics:

Appendix.

CITY OF LONDON.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
14	Men's sick ward - - - - -	35 9	17 6	12 4	14
18	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	24 0	17 7	12 4	10
16	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	36 2	18 3	12 0	14
17	Ditto - ditto (wet cases) - - - - -	20 0	18 3	12 0	6
7	Women's sick ward - - - - -	24 9	18 4	12 0	10
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	24 9	18 4	12 0	10
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	20 3	18 4	12 0	6
4	Women's sick and infirm - - - - -	36 2	18 4	12 0	14
8	Women's paralytic cases - - - - -	36 2	18 4	13 6	14
9	Women's sick ward - - - - -	20 3	18 3	13 6	6
10	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	24 9	18 3	11 6	10
		+20 3	13 9	3 6	
11	Women's aged sick - - - - -	24 9	18 3	11 6	10
		+20 3	13 9	3 6	
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	20 0	18 3	13 6	6
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	36 2	18 3	13 6	14
2	Women's sick ward - - - - -	35 7	17 6	12 4	14
1	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	19 9	17 6	12 4	6
3	Women's lying in ward - - - - -	24 0	17 7	12 4	8
2	Female imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	27 7	15 6	11 6	10
1	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	27 4	15 10	11 6	10
		11 10	1 9	11 6	
-	Female imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	27 4	20 10	11 6	—
4	Female imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	27 8	15 6	12 0	10
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	27 7	15 9	12 0	9
-	Female imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	27 5	20 11	12 0	—
-	Male imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	37 3	16 10	10 0	15

Hence it appears that the usual height and width of the wards in the infirmary are 12 to 13 feet and 18 feet, except in the top story, where the height is 15 feet.

The floor space, and cubical space, allowed to each bed, in the several wards, are as follows:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
14	Men's sick ward - - - - -	45	551
18	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	521
16	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	566
17	Men's sick ward (wet cases) - - - - -	61	730
7	Women's sick ward - - - - -	45	545
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	545
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	62	742
4	Women's sick and infirm - - - - -	47	568
8	Women's paralytic cases - - - - -	47	639
9	Women's sick ward - - - - -	61	821
10	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	617
11	Women's aged sick - - - - -	45	617
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	61	821
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	636
2	Women's sick ward - - - - -	45	549
1	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	58	710
3	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	53	651
2	Female imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	43	492
1	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	41	474
	Female imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	—	—
4	Female imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	43	515
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	579
	Female imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	—	—
	Male imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	42	418

Hence the usual floor space and cubical space allowed in the infirmary is 45 to 61 superficial feet, and 521 to 821 cubic feet; and no ward offers less cubical space than is required by the Poor Law Board.

## Appendix.

## CITY OF LONDON.

As the infirmary is built with two wings, it enables most of the wards to have windows on two sides; and all, without exception, are light and cheerful. The size and form of the rooms are very convenient, and such as may be employed in the most advantageous manner. The walls are painted below and coloured above; and in the corridors the floor is of asphalt.

## Bedding and furniture.

The bedding consists of flock placed upon iron bedsteads, with iron laths. The beds are sufficiently full; and whilst the flock is not well teased in some of the rooms, the beds in general are very good and comfortable. The linen and bed clothes are good. There are white counterpanes, except in the upper floor, where they are yellow, and do not look so cheerful and comfortable as the former.

There is a dresser in the larger rooms, on and within which the crockery and utensils are placed or displayed; and where there is not a dresser, a table supplies its place. There are foot pans, hot water tins for the feet and chest, and hot water bottles in nearly all the rooms. In every room there are several metallic and crockery wash-hand basins; also two or three roller towels and two pieces of soap; and two hair brushes and combs. Each inmate has a clean towel weekly. Many of the inmates have also their own comb and brush, and towels.

There are several small lockers in each ward; but they seem older than the building, and are not worthy of it. There is also a night chair in each ward. A form is placed near the table, and there are a few arm and single chairs in every ward.

Each sick person has a cape to cover the shoulders on sitting up in bed; and a flannel gown is provided in each ward.

There are a few prints, some illustrated periodicals, and some religious books; but the number is small. A larger quantity of illustrated papers were collected in a closet, and, as it appeared to us, might with greater advantage be circulating again and again through the wards. The illustrated periodicals are usually left one day in each ward. We did not see any games in the infirmary wards.

There are bookshelves, looking glass, bell, screens, and table cloths, in each ward.

The arrangements in the imbecile wards are very good, in some parts almost luxurious. The day rooms for women are particularly good; and with the piano, games, dolls and similar playthings, carpets, and handsome black chimney pieces, they look well furnished.

There are pieces of carpet laid along the gangways in the dormitories.

The sick and imbeciles appeared to be well clad, and looked very comfortable.

## Cleanliness.

Perfect cleanliness of linen, floors, tables, furniture, and utensils, was evident everywhere. The labour bed was quite clean; and waterproof sheeting is supplied to all the lying-in beds.

## Ventilation.

The arrangements for ventilation consist of open fire places; windows with semi-circular tops which fall down into a rack; openings in the ceiling covered in with gratings; air bricks near the floor, leading from the corridors; and windows over the doors, of which the central part opens with a central pin.

There are also large tubes, with cowls, leading from the upper corridor to the roof.

Of all these, however, none are alone sufficient; and the chief ventilation depends upon the windows. Great care is taken by the medical officer and nurses, and good arrangements exist, by the notches in the racks, to keep some of the windows a little open; but as the ventilation is thus in a great degree dependent upon the attention of others, it cannot be always satisfactory. Some of the rooms were close; and this must vary, both day and night, as the windows are open or not. I cannot doubt that all are close in the early morning.

## Nursing.

There are six paid nurses for the sick and imbeciles; viz., one who superintends all the sick in the infirmary; one for the four wards of aged and infirm women; and one for the three wards of aged and infirm men, in the body of the workhouse. Two for the female imbeciles; and one for the male imbeciles. The wages of these several persons are 31 *l.* 4 *s.*, 28 *l.* 10 *s.*, 23 *l.* 10 *s.*, 30 *l.*, 25 *l.*, and 35 *l.* per year, with rations.

There are not any paid night nurses. A male and a female night watcher sit up all night in the infirmary; and when any case requires special attention, a special nurse is provided. No payment is made to these persons; but they have extra food.

The medical officer stated that the class of inmates in this union is higher than elsewhere; since they were for the most part gentlemen's servants or small tradesmen; and therefore that the unpaid nurses are unusually good, and well conducted. Both the paid and unpaid nurses certainly appeared to be respectable persons.

He was also of opinion that stimulants were properly administered by their unpaid nurses; (the quantity allowed to each person being measured, and placed in a bottle by the bedside of the patients by the paid nurse); and, in general, for the above reasons, neither the medical officer nor the master thought that any considerable increase of paid nurses was needful.

The medical officer thought that a paid night nurse should be appointed for the infirmary, and another for the body of the workhouse. None is necessary for the lying-in ward, since only 20 to 25 cases are admitted yearly.

## Medical Officer.

The medical officer engages in private practice, and lives near to the workhouse. He visits the workhouse at least twice a day, and devotes about five hours daily to his duties.

He



He includes all the imbeciles on his list on account of the dietary, and in the belief that they need his frequent attention; so that with the infirmary, imbecile, and aged and infirm wards, he has about 380 persons upon his books. He is of opinion that a diet for the aged and infirm, and for lunatics, which should provide meat and beer daily, would be useful, and would much diminish the number upon his list.

The guardians provide all drugs, but he dispenses them; and he prefers that there should not be a dispenser. The cost of the drugs is from 120*l.* to 140*l.* per year.

They also supply all diets, stimulants, and medical appliances when ordered, and of these there is no stint.

His salary is 275*l.*, and the extras amount to about 25*l.* per year. Since he has not much time which he can devote to private practice, he thinks that the salary should be 400*l.* per year.

Somewhat more room is required in the infirmary. A ward is needed for itch cases, another for children, and a third for occasional fever cases. He does not think that day rooms would be of much service in the infirmary, since many cases cannot leave their room; and of the old scarcely any would leave it to go into a day room.

He is satisfied with the present cubic space in the wards, and has not seen any evil result from it; but since there has been so much talk about a larger quantity being necessary, he has advised that a bed here and there should be withdrawn. But from his own experience, he sees no reason to change the present plan.

Roasted meat is given to all the sick on one day weekly; and one roasted joint is supplied to the worst cases in the infirmary daily. Fish, eggs and bacon, and similar small dishes are cooked in the infirmary kitchen; but the dinners are sent from the general kitchen, and are kept warm by several closely packed trays being placed in a tin box, and carried quickly to the infirmary.

The following are the recommendations which I have to make in reference to this generally excellent workhouse:—

1. The ventilation should no longer be dependent upon the windows, but the central pane, at the top of each window, should be made of perforated glass. The windows over the doors should be kept open to the extent of one-inch. A large opening made in the partition walls, between the wards in the wings, and covered in with metal, having large perforations, would be of great service; and more, and larger air bricks could, if necessary, be put in from the corridors. The dormitory of the male imbeciles requires special attention.

2. It is much more difficult to regulate the heat with steam pipes than with hot water pipes.

3. More prints, illustrated periodicals, entertaining books and games, would be useful. More arm chairs, of an easy kind, are, I think, required.

4. I do not doubt, that in addition to the paid night nurses, recommended by the medical officer, there should be an additional paid nurse in the infirmary; and that the stimulants and medicine should be given by the paid nurses only.

5. A dietary, with meat and beer daily, should be provided for the aged and infirm. The No. 6 dietary at this workhouse for imbeciles contains more meat than can be actually eaten at once.

6. A large increase has very recently been made to the salary of the medical officer but the amount should, in due time, be yet further increased, or an assistant should be provided who would live within the workhouse, and, in addition to his other duties, would dispense the medicines.

7. Care should be taken that the flock in the beds be kept soft by frequent teasing.

8. An infectious ward, an itch ward, and a sick nursery are needed in the infirmary; and as the building is now full in the winter time, a spare sick room or two, and a day room on each side for convalescents would be of advantage.

I do not think it is wise to voluntarily place cases of infectious disease with others in the same ward, whatever space may be allowed.

Appendix.

CITY OF LONDON.

Recommendations.

## No. 17.

## STEPNEY.

WE visited this union on 25th April 1866; and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

It is a new workhouse, situated in the suburbs of London, and on a well drained and salubrious plot of land; but immediately in front of it, and, indeed, dividing the property into two parts, is the railroad, with its disturbing noises; and near to it is Bow Common, on which are bone works, which are said to fill the whole surrounding air with an offensive odour at night.

There is a detached infirmary in which the worst cases of sickness and the imbeciles are placed; whilst the upper floor of the main building is occupied by the wards of the aged infirm, and bed-ridden, and by the nursery, and the lying-in-wards. There are not any fever

STEPNEY.

Appendix.

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wards; since fever and small-pox cases are sent to the hospitals. Venereal cases are retained in the infirmary; and but very few indeed are sent to the Lock Hospital.

Cases of itch are sometimes placed in the same ward as the latter, since they are not numerous, and there is not a special ward for them.

The children occupy a separate and large establishment at Limehouse.

There are not any day rooms except for the lunatics. Baths, water-closets, lavatories, and night stools, abound. There is a plentiful supply of gas; and of hot and cold water.

There are to-day 567 inmates, of whom 19 are able-bodied men, and 45 able-bodied women; 62 are bed-ridden men, and 78 bed-ridden women; there are also 20 male, and 27 female imbeciles; and 42 sick males, and 76 sick females, in the infirmary. The total number in the infirmary is 165.

Number of beds  
and size of rooms.

The following are the dimensions of the several wards, and the number of beds which they contain:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
59	Empty - - - - -	24 0	15 0	11 6	7
63	Male imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	30 7	18 6	11 6	—
68	Male imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	30 7	18 6	11 6	12
12	Men's sick ward - - - - -	30 7	18 7	11 6	12
15	Male imbeciles' bed-room (night only) - - - - -	30 7	18 7	11 6	16
20	Men's foul ward - - - - -	24 0	19 9	11 6	10
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	27 0	19 2	11 3	12
		+20 0	11 7	4 6	
8	Men's sick ward - - - - -	24 0	19 9	11 3	11
		24 0	10 11	4 6	
49	Female imbeciles' bed-room (night only) - - - - -	24 0	15 0	11 6	8
39	Female imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	30 7	18 7	11 6	—
45	Female imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	30 7	18 7	11 6	13
29	Women's sick ward - - - - -	30 7	18 7	11 6	12
34	Female imbeciles' bed-room (night only) - - - - -	30 7	18 7	11 6	16
2	Women's sick ward - - - - -	27 1	19 2	11 3	14
		+20 0	11 7	4 6	
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	24 0	19 9	11 3	12
		+17 0	11 7	4 6	
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	30 7	21 3	11 3	13
		30 7	12 8	4 6	
26	Women's sick ward - - - - -	24 0	19 9	11 6	10
25	Women's foul ward - - - - -	30 7	21 3	11 6	13
24	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	19 0	13 0	11 6	5
22	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	19 0	13 0	11 6	5
110	Men, sick and bed-ridden - - - - -	25 7	18 1	11 10	10
		+25 7	14 1	2 0	
87	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	25 7	18 1	11 10	11
		+25 7	14 1	2 0	
108	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	25 7	18 3	11 10	11
		+25 7	14 3	2 0	
107	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	23 9	18 3	11 10	10
		+23 9	14 3	2 0	
106	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	24 10	23 2	11 0	17
104	Women's lying-in-ward - - - - -	23 6	12 0	11 6	5
102	Women's sick ward - - - - -	24 10	23 0	11 0	11
101	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	23 7	23 0	11 0	11
100	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	23 8	18 1	11 10	9
		+23 8	14 1	2 0	
99	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	25 9	18 1	11 10	11
		+25 9	14 1	2 0	
88	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	25 5	18 1	11 10	10
		+25 5	14 1	2 0	
90	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	25 7	18 1	11 10	6 double 3 single.
		+25 7	14 1	2 0	
93	Children's bed-room, night only - - - - -	26 0	17 9	10 9	4 double 6 single.

Hence it appears that usually the height and width of the wards are  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet and 18 to 20 feet, except the wards on the upper story, which extend into the roof, and are commonly about 16 feet in height.

The



The following are the floor space, and the cubical space, allowed to each bed :—

Appendix  
STEPNEY.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
59	Empty - - - - -	51	591
63	Male imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	—	—
68	Male imbeciles' bed-room - - - - -	47	542
12	Men's sick ward - - - - -	47	545
15	Male imbeciles' bed-room (night only) - - - - -	36	409
20	Men's foul ward - - - - -	47	545
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	572
8	Men's sick ward - - - - -	43	592
49	Female imbeciles' bed-room (night only) - - - - -	45	518
39	Female imbeciles' day-room - - - - -	—	—
45	Ditto - ditto bed-room - - - - -	44	503
29	Women's sick ward - - - - -	47	545
34	Female imbeciles' bed-room (night only) - - - - -	36	409
2	Women's sick ward - - - - -	37	492
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	40	518
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	696
26	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	545
25	Women's foul ward - - - - -	50	575
24	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	568
22	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	568
110	Men, sick and bed-ridden - - - - -	46	620
87	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	563
108	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	568
107	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	581
106	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	34	372
104	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	56	649
102	Women's sick ward - - - - -	52	571
101	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	542
100	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	637
99	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	567
88	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	615
90	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	31	413
93	Children's bed-room (night only) - - - - -	33	354

Thus it appears that the usual floor space and cubical space, for day and night rooms, are 40 to 56 superficial feet, and 492 to 649 cubic feet; and that in only three wards is the cubical space less than 500 feet to each bed. One ward has less than 400 cubic feet.

The size and form of the wards are very suitable, except that they are somewhat too narrow, and permit the best use to be made of them. None of the wards are either too small or too wide to be useful.

Form of wards, and general character.

The wards in the wings of the infirmary have windows on two sides, and are light and cheerful. Some of those in the centre have windows only on one side. As in the body of the workhouse there is a very long central corridor, with wards on either hand, there can be windows on one side only; and with three blank walls the rooms do not look so comfortable as they might be.

The walls are generally whitewashed, but the lower part is now being painted. Coloured wash is placed upon the walls of a few wards.

The beds for the general sick are of flock, whilst those for dirty cases are of straw, and those for the imbecile of cocoa fibre.

Bedding and furniture.

In some instances the flock is not well teased, and, indeed, there is not a machine, or any well arranged plan, for teasing it. Some are also too thin, but very generally the flock beds are fairly good. The cocoa fibre mattresses have become hollow and thin in the middle, and do not properly protect the inmate from the iron laths underneath. They are not taken to pieces, and the coir picked and pulled with adequate frequency.

The bedsteads are of iron, with laths, which are rigid, as in the Crimean bedstead; or more commonly, elastic.

The rugs are of blue cotton, and many are faded and old, and do not look tidy. The bed covering is good.

There is a cupboard in many of the rooms, and shelves in all, on which the crockery and utensils are placed. There are no lockers for the use of the inmates. A few short stools are provided, and benches are ordered. There are chairs and night stools in each room.

Two or three roller towels, some soap, three or four combs, two flannel gowns, looking glass, and thermometer, are provided for each ward; and each inmate has a towel. There are only five feet warmers, and one chest warmer in the infirmary. There is not a water or air bed, but there are air cushions and waterproof sheeting.

A few prints are placed upon the walls. Some periodicals (costing 5 s. weekly) are provided; as also a few interesting books. There are also games of various kinds.

There

## Appendix.

## STEPNEY.

## Cleanliness.

## Ventilation.

There is an aspect of bareness of furniture in the rooms; and there are no signs of luxury in these arrangements.

Every part of the linen, bedding, floors, and furniture, was clean.

This workhouse is another flagrant instance of the inattention to ventilation. No wards could be more readily ventilated, and none ought to be sweeter, yet the attempts at ventilation are futile, and the air is close by night and day. The ventilation is mainly dependant upon the windows, which are of semicircular shape at the top, and draw down in the usual way. There are open fire-places, and also one or more large openings in the ceiling, covered by perforated zinc, and one or more circular ventilators in the floor, both of which communicate with the outer air. Some of the ventilators in the ceiling, in the upper rooms, go through the roof, and are protected by a cowl.

We found these ventilators closed in many of the wards, and those in the ceiling covered by wood or canvas. In cold weather, and with the wind in certain directions, a large volume of cold air descends from the large ventilators in the ceiling; and as the rooms are kept warm by fire and deficient ventilation, this descent is objected to by the inmates.

There are also holes near the top of the wall, which permit ventilation in two or three wards, which were formerly used as fever wards, and which are built in the roof; but there are no air bricks, leading from the outer air, or from the corridors, and placed near to the floor, or to the ceiling; no openings between the rooms, or over the doors; and no windows swinging on central pins, in the walls dividing the wards from the corridors.

The padded rooms are so damp for want of ventilation, that the padding had been temporarily removed, and the rooms, without the padding, are unfit for use.

There are no ventilators in the corridors; and even the lights which are placed on the stairs, and the skylights at the top of the workhouse, are fixed, and do not admit air. The corridors are narrow.

It is almost past belief that the various officers and the visiting committee should be aware of the closeness of the rooms, and yet not have adopted the simple expedient of ventilating by ventilators, and not by windows.

The nursery and some other wards were close, even in the middle of the day, after the windows had been opened during the morning.

There are not any ventilators in the labour and lying-in-room.

## Nursing.

There are five paid nurses in this workhouse. One, a man, superintends the male lunatics, and all the male sick cases in the infirmary; whilst another, a female, and the wife of the former, performs the same duties in reference to the females. One night nurse has charge of the whole infirmary at night. Two others are devoted to the bed-ridden, and aged men and women, and the lying-in ward in the body of the workhouse. There is also one unpaid nurse to each ward; and usually there is a helper; and some of them are unable to read.

The master stated that at present there is much difficulty in obtaining unpaid nurses, since many prefer to remain in their wards, even with the ordinary workhouse diet, and that he is unable to make a choice.

The medical officer was of opinion that there should be two paid nurses for the lunatics of each sex, and a paid night nurse for the body of the house.

They had not heard any complaints of the unpaid nurses taking the stimulants of the patients, and they had never seen any of them drunk, except after having been out of the workhouse.

## Medical Officer.

The medical officer lives near to the workhouse, and attends also to the children at Limehouse schools. He is permitted to take private practice. He attends at the workhouse not less than twice a-day, and sees ordinary cases of sick on alternate days, and important cases daily. He has placed the imbeciles on his list in order to give them a better diet; and if a diet were provided which afforded meat and beer daily, many of them, and of the aged sick, would not be placed there. He devotes about four hours daily to his duties within the workhouse, and about two hours to those at Limehouse, and to the journey to and fro. He had 363 cases upon his books last week, of whom 179 were aged or bed-ridden. His salary is 120 *l.* yearly for the workhouse, and 60 *l.* yearly for the schools, besides about 12 *l.* yearly as extras for midwifery, and a sum to be obtained in future from lunacy certificates.

The guardians provide the drugs for both these institutions, and for the whole district, and also a dispensary and a dispenser away from the workhouse. The medical officer thinks that his salary for the workhouse should be 250 *l.* per year, and then he would cease private practice. He does not need a resident assistant.

The infirmary is too small, and the lunatics should be removed, and afford room for other classes, or the building should be enlarged, and the lying-in and sick cases be removed from the body of the workhouse.

There are not many cases of midwifery. Such cases remain in the labour-room for the first 12 days, and are then removed to ward No. 90. One nurse to about 50 acute, and to about 80 bed-ridden, cases would suffice.

## Chaplains.

There are two chaplains attached to the workhouse, who each attend once a week, and perform Divine service, and again once during the week, to visit the sick. They receive 50 *l.* each yearly, and do not live in the workhouse. We found a man dying, and learnt that the chaplain is not summoned to see dying cases until desired by the patient; and when, as in this case, the inmate did not wish to see any religious minister, he died without the attendance of the clergyman. This is a practice which is much to be regretted.

The



The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse :

1. The ventilation should be immediately made good throughout both the infirmary and the workhouse. Air bricks, the width of two bricks, should be inserted in the outer wall, at the top of the wards, and covered on the inside with perforated zinc ; whilst on the opposite wall, or that separating the ward from the corridor, there should be windows inserted which should be fixed open to the extent of one inch, by night and day. When this has been effected, the large central ventilator in the ceiling of the upper room should be much reduced in size.

Large openings should be made over the doors from the corridors, and protected by perforated metal. The windows on the corridors and staircases should be plugged open to the extent of one or two inches, and a strip of perforated zinc placed across the opening.

The padded wards demand immediate attention.

2. In order to provide more accommodation for the general sick, it may be advisable that the infirmary be enlarged, or that the imbeciles be removed to a separate building.

Separate itch wards should be provided.

When the ventilation of the wards in the body of the workhouse has been effected, these rooms may be very properly used as sick wards.

3. More cupboards or dressers, lockers, bookshelves, and other furniture should be placed in the wards ; and by cushions upon the benches and chairs, by prints upon the walls, and by colouring the walls, an air of greater comfort might be given to them.

4. More feet warmers, chest warmers, water beds, bed rests, and other medical appliances are necessary. Some bedsteads with racks should be placed in every ward ; and particularly for bed-ridden cases.

5. It would be much better if the worst cases of syphilis were sent to the Lock Hospital.

6. Paid nurses should be appointed, as suggested by the medical officer.

7. The salary of the medical officer should be increased, with extras.

8. The flock and cocoa fibre in the beds should be kept in better condition.

9. A dietary, with meat and beer daily, for the aged and imbeciles, should be provided.

10. It would be much better to have a chaplain to devote his whole time to the duties of his office, and to see daily all cases who are seriously ill or dying.

11. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in the several wards :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
59	Empty - - - - -	6	5	Women's sick ward - - -	10
63	Male imbeciles' day-room -	—	26	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
68	Male imbeciles' bed-room -	—	25	Women's foul ward - - -	10
12	Men's sick ward - - -	9 or 10	24	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 4
15	Male imbeciles' bed-room (night only).	—	22	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 4
20	Men's foul ward - - -	8	110	Men, sick and bed-ridden -	8
9	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 10	87	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
8	Men's sick ward - - -	8	108	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
49	Female imbeciles' bed-room (night only).	—	107	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
39	Female imbeciles' day-room -	—	106	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
45	Female imbeciles' bed-room -	—	104	Women's lying-in ward -	4
29	Women's sick ward - - -	9 or 10	102	Women's sick ward - - -	8
34	Female imbeciles' bed-room (night only).	—	101	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
2	Women's sick ward - - -	8 or 10	100	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	8	99	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
			88	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
			90	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
			93	Children's bed-room (night only)	—

Appendix.

STEPNEY.

Recommendations.

WE visited the Poplar workhouse on 26th April 1866, and were accompanied by the master.

This workhouse is somewhat old, and is situated on the banks of the Thames, nearly opposite to the Isle of Dogs, and consequently in a low situation, and in a locality where good drainage is difficult, and fresh air not of ready attainment. The building, however, is said to be well drained; and the front of it is more elevated than the back.

The workhouse consists chiefly of two blocks of buildings placed at right angles; and, notwithstanding certain low workshops and other buildings, is tolerably open at the back. The guardians contemplate an extension of the workhouse upon this plot of land; and the new buildings would doubtless be devoted to the use of the sick.

This building contains the ordinary inmates, the general sick, and the lunatics. There is an abundant supply of gas and cold water; but hot water is not distributed to the upper rooms by pipes, and can be obtained there in small quantities only from boilers, and in larger quantities from the lower part of the building.

There are water-closets and lavatories in connection with many of the wards; and there are portable baths.

There is a day or sewing room for the ordinary inmates; and a part of another room is chiefly used as a day-room by the aged.

The children are sent to the Whitechapel school, at a cost of 5 s. 6 d. per head, including all expenses; but all under four years are retained at the workhouse.

The lunatics are quiet and inoffensive, and are mixed with the other inmates.

Cases of fever, small-pox, itch, and syphilis, are kept apart in the North-street infirmary. This consists of two parts; one an old house, in which the cases of fever are placed, as well as the female venereal cases; and a new building in the rear, which was erected at the time of cholera, and contains cases of small-pox, and also the nursery and the male venereal cases.

This building is supplied with cold but not with hot water; and the latter is carried from the boiler in the kitchen when required. It is said to be well drained.

There is a carriage on two wheels, in which fever cases are carried, but it is not sufficiently easy. There is also a long litter borne by hand, on which the sick are carried to the workhouse; and both this and the carriage are repelling in appearance.

Some, perhaps many, of the cases of fever are sent to the Fever Hospital.

There are 443 inmates to-day; of whom 62 are able-bodied, 301 aged and infirm, 130 sick and upon the medical officer's books, and 50 are children.

The dimensions of the several rooms in which the sick are placed, and the number of beds in each room, are as follow:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.		Breadth.		Height.		Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	
8	Male sick ward - - -	33	9	17	1	11	4	12
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	33	9	16	10	11	9	12
		+ 33	9	4	8	1	6	
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	22	10	23	10	11	9	12
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	16	0	23	10	11	9	9
46	Women's sick ward - - -	33	4	23	0	11	8	21
		+ 33	4	8	0	8	3	
47	Ditto - ditto - - -	26	0	23	6	11	8	14
		+ 13	6	7	6	8	3	
48	Ditto - ditto - - -	23	2	11	9	11	6	7
49	Ditto - ditto - - -	30	4	13	9	11	6	8
50	Women's (sick and infirm) -	25	7	23	6	11	6	14
40	Women's convalescent ward -	30	7	16	9	11	6	6
40a	Ditto - ditto - - -	21	10	18	0	11	6	14
North-street Old Infirmary:								
	Women's fever ward - - -	24	2	11	7	12	3	6
	Men's fever ward - - -	22	4	23	1	11	6	9
		+ 22	4	17	1	6	0	
	Women's small-pox ward -	14	4	10	10	8	0	3
	Women's foul ward - - -	15	7	10	10	7	6	3
	Ditto - ditto - - -	22	7	10	0	7	6	4
New Infirmary, North-street:								
	Men's foul ward - - -	25	0	20	0	11	0	9
	Men's small-pox ward - -	20	0	11	9	11	0	5
	Ditto - ditto - - -	24	7	20	0	12	9	10
	Children's sick nursery -	25	4	20	0	12	9	8
	Children's small nursery -	12	2	20	0	11	3	4

Hence

Number of beds.



Hence it appears that the general height and width of the rooms in the body of the workhouse are 11½ feet, and 17 to 23 feet; but there is much irregularity, since all the rooms in the upper storey are built in the roof.

Those of the new infirmary building are 11 to 12½ feet, and 20 feet.

The floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed are as follow :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
8	Male sick ward - - - - -	48	544
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	576
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	533
4	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	498
46	Women's sick ward - - - - -	49	531
47	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	570
48	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	39	447
49	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	599
50	Women's (sick and infirm) - - - - -	43	494
40	Women's convalescent ward - - - - -	85	982
40a	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	28	323
North-street Old Infirmary :			
-	Women's fever ward - - - - -	47	571
-	Men's fever ward - - - - -	57	913
-	Women's small-pox ward - - - - -	52	414
-	Women's foul ward - - - - -	56	422
-	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	75	565
New Infirmary, North-street :			
-	Men's foul ward - - - - -	56	611
-	Men's small-pox ward - - - - -	47	517
-	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	627
-	Children's sick nursery - - - - -	63	807
-	Children's small nursery - - - - -	61	684

Thus, the general floor space and cubical space in the body of the workhouse is 42 to 52 superficial, and 447 to 599 cubic feet; but four wards there, and two small-pox wards in the North-street Infirmary, have less than 500 cubic feet to each bed.

The general aspect of the wards in the body of the workhouse is very varied. Many are irregular in form, and project into the roof. Many have outside windows on one side only, and inner windows on the opposite side, which lead into the corridors. Others have outside windows on two or even on three sides. The walls are coloured green and blue, each six months alternately, so as to render them more agreeable to the inmates; and in general everything has been done to render the wards light and cheerful, which old and irregularly built rooms will admit of. All the rooms are sufficiently large to be useful; and some are so large and wide as to admit of three rows of beds.

General character of rooms.

The rooms in the old part of the infirmary are small, old, and wretched; with the exception of that occupied by male fever cases, which is larger, and open to the roof. Those in the newer part are larger; but, having windows on one side only, are not so cheerful, airy, and healthful as they should be.

Generally speaking, the character of the rooms is not so good as that of sick wards should be.

The bedding consists of a flock bed and iron bedstead; and when there are iron laths, and not sacking, there is a thick cocoa-fibre mattress placed under the bed. The linen is good, but not of very good colour. The rugs are chiefly of blue cotton, but some are woollen; yet neither the one nor the other are as cheerful and good as they should be. The bedsteads are six feet three inches in length, by two feet six inches in breadth; and nearly all have racks.

Bedding and furniture.

There are no lockers. Night-stools, screens, thermometer, looking-glass, and small bookshelves, are found in all the wards. There are also large woollen nightgowns and capes, and a few prints. Six copies of four illustrated periodicals are supplied weekly; and there are some religious books.

Arm-chairs and single chairs are found in all the wards. There is a stove which projects into the room, and affords space on which to warm the plates, and a boiler; while at the same time the fire-place is open.

Three roller towels are supplied to each ward, and may be exchanged at any time for clean ones; but no small towels are given. There are three sets of combs and brushes to each ward, and the soap, for the use of the inmates only, is supplied in any required quantity.

There are water or air beds and cushions in the workhouse, which are sent to the North-street Infirmary, as occasion may require; but yet bed sores do sometimes occur in the infirmary.

POPULAR.

## Cleanliness.

Every part of the linen, wards and furniture, was clean; more so, perhaps, than might have been expected in an old workhouse.

## Ventilation.

The ventilation is effected in a very varied manner, and yet is not satisfactory. In some of the wards, as No. 8, besides a gas ventilator, which is always let into the roof, there are windows in the partition wall of the corridor, which are left open at night, and ventilators in both walls, one set of which are fastened up and closed. In many cases ventilators are attached to the doors; and in some there are large openings between the rooms. There are also a very few air-bricks.

But notwithstanding all the care, the ventilators in the walls are imperfect, insufficient, and not well placed. Some of the rooms, as No. 48, were close at our visit; and all are close during the night. The master pays much attention to this matter, and has the windows opened in the very early morning, and, for the time, renders the air tolerably good; but having regard to the low situation of the neighbourhood, the character of the air, and the existing system, the ventilation requires attention.

There is much less attempt at ventilation in the new infirmary buildings. In the old fever wards there are large gratings in the wall at the top, on one or both sides. The ventilation of the female fever ward, however, is not at all so good as it should be; and indeed the ward, for the size, number of inmates, situation on the ground floor, and ventilation is quite unfit for the treatment of such important cases. We saw a poor woman lying in a state of muttering delirium, who, with her husband and child, had recently been admitted, and who certainly should have been taken to the fever hospital.

## Nursing.

There is only one paid nurse for the sick in the body of the workhouse, and she has been appointed very recently, at a salary of 25 £. per year. There is also a paid nurse, receiving a salary of 30 guineas per year, at the North-street Infirmary.

There is an unpaid nurse in each ward in the body of the workhouse. The nurse at the infirmary has now two female and two male helpers; but when there are more cases there she has four women to help. With a full infirmary there is, however, some difficulty in inducing the inmates of the workhouse to live in the infirmary, and tend the sick.

The master states that one additional nurse is needed in the body of the workhouse. It is not needful to have a paid night nurse, but there are always three men and one woman employed as night watchers, who sit up all the night. He speaks very highly of his unpaid nurses, and considers them quite fitted to administer stimulants and medicine to the inmates. He had never known them to be drunk in the house; and no complaints have ever reached him that they drank the beer, wine, &c. of the patients. He affirms that they are well conducted. Some of them cannot read. The inmates are willing to become nurses.

About 24 to 30 cases of midwifery occur in the workhouse during the year, and the master does not think that a special nurse is required for them. The guardians do not employ a midwife for these cases, but the medical officer attends to them.

About 20 inmates of each sex require some attention during the night.

## Chaplain.

The chaplain performs Divine service on one day in the week, and visits the workhouse on three or four other days. He also sees those who are seriously ill; and is sent for to see dying persons. Ministers of all religious denominations are admitted.

## Medical officer.

The medical officer attends at the workhouse on three or four days weekly, and his assistant attends daily. He attends whenever summoned to an urgent case, but is not sent for to a dying case when it had been seen during the day, and was hopeless. The guardians provide the medicines, but not a dispenser. About three to four hours daily are devoted to the workhouse and the North-street Infirmary; and the medical officer himself always attends at the latter place.

His salary is only about 50 £. per year, besides extras for midwifery and lunacy certificates, which amount to about 46 £. He thinks that the salary should be increased to 100 £. or 150 £. yearly, and the guardians should provide a dispenser. He is of opinion that another paid day nurse, and a night nurse should be appointed for the body of the workhouse; and also a night nurse at the infirmary so long as fever and small-pox cases are kept there. The fever cases do well in the fever wards, although so old; and the nurses, both paid and unpaid, are very efficient; but the new cholera buildings are ill-ventilated, and not better than the old fever wards.

Roasted meat is provided twice a week; and the meat is cooked, with great ease, in a large gas stove.

The guardians freely supply all extra diets, stimulants, and medical appliances.

Various improvements have been suggested from time to time; but the existing uncertainty as to the propriety of continuing the present building, or of pulling it down, has prevented any action being taken.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse:—

1. The retention of fever and small-pox cases should be entirely discontinued, and they should be sent to the proper hospitals.
2. The old buildings at the North-street Infirmary are quite unfit for sick persons, and should be closed at once.
3. The new buildings are not well placed, since windows cannot be opened in the back wall; and hence the rooms are neither sufficiently well lit nor well ventilated.

4. It



4. It would be far better, with existing arrangements, to send the greater part of the venereal cases to the Lock Hospital.

5. Proper baths with hot and cold water, separate water or air beds and cushions, and proper medical appliances, should be provided at this infirmary. Cases of bed sores have occurred there, and in future should be prevented.

6. An easy and more suitable fever carriage, on four wheels, should be provided.

7. The position of the present workhouse is not by any means so favourable as one which might be found in a more elevated locality not far distant. It is to my mind very doubtful whether it is advisable that much money should be spent upon it, either to enlarge it for ordinary inmates or for the sick. It is true that whilst the workhouse is not good enough for the sick, it may not be so unfit for the occupation of ordinary cases as to render it essential that the building should be pulled down; but having regard to its defects, which are irremediable, to the presumed value of the site, and to the possibility of obtaining a more suitable site without great cost, it would, I think, be wise, and a matter of sound economy, to build a new workhouse with proper hospital buildings elsewhere.

8. Something might be done to improve the ventilation of the wards in the present building, by inserting near to the ceiling open air-bricks of large dimensions, and covered with perforated zinc, in opposite walls; by plugging open all doors and windows for ventilation leading from the corridors; by placing new ventilating windows in certain partition walls, as in that between Nos. 48 and 49; and by maintaining a freer current of air through all the corridors. Larger ventilators with cowls might also be placed in the roof.

It would be, however, necessary for the inspector and guardians to consider the special conditions of each ward separately.

9. A special dietary, with meat and beer daily, should be provided for the aged and infirm.

10. There should be another paid nurse appointed for the body of the workhouse, and also two or three paid night nurses—one or two for the body of the workhouse, and one for the North-street Infirmary. So long as fever and small-pox cases are kept at the infirmary, the nurse should have a paid day assistant.

11. The medical officer should, I think, attend personally once a day, at both the workhouse and the infirmary; and he should be sent for to all dying cases which have not been seen for several hours. The fever wards should be visited twice a day regularly, so long as fever cases are found therein.

His salary should be increased, and a dispenser provided, who might also act as clerk, or superintend the nursing.

12. Lockers, prints, and games, and some additional furniture, should be supplied.

13. Hot-water pipes and baths should be placed on each floor and in each lavatory, both in the workhouse and the infirmary.

14. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
8	Male sick ward - - -	10		North Street, Old Infirmary:	
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	10		Women's fever ward - - -	3 or 4
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	8	-	Men's fever ward - - -	6
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	6	-	Women's small-pox ward - - -	1 or 2
46	Women's sick ward - - -	—	-	Women's foul ward - - -	2
47	Ditto - ditto - - -	—	-	Ditto - ditto - - -	3
48	Ditto - ditto - - -	4			
49	Ditto - ditto - - -	8		New Infirmary, North-street:	
50	Women's (sick and infirm) - - -	8 or 9		Men's foul ward - - -	8
40	Women's convalescent ward - - -	9	-	Men's small-pox ward - - -	3
40a	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7	-	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 8
			-	Children's sick nursery - - -	—
			-	Children's small nursery - - -	—

ST. MARGARET AND ST. JOHN'S, WESTMINSTER.

ST. MARGARET  
AND ST. JOHN'S,  
WESTMINSTER.

WE visited this workhouse on 27th April 1866, and were accompanied by the master. We also had the advantage of a conference with the medical officer.

This is one of two, and the smaller of the two, workhouses belonging to the parish. It consists of a new-looking building, entirely enclosing and almost altogether covering the small plot of land upon which it is built; and it is placed near to a densely-populated locality, with narrow streets and close air.

In addition to the main body of the building, in which the general sick and the ordinary inmates are placed, there are small wards in which cases of fever, small-pox, itch, and lunacy are placed; but with the exception of about 20 cases yearly, all fever cases are sent to the fever hospitals; and lunatics are not permanently retained there.

We did not find a case of fever in those wards; but two cases of itch occupied the fever ward on the women's side.

The wards for males and females are on separate sides of the centre of the building, and are the exact counterparts of each other; but as able-bodied, aged and infirm, and convalescent cases sleep together in the same ward (No. 65), there is no sufficient attempt at classification.

The children are placed in a separate school. The drainage is said to be good; and the supply of hot and cold water, and gas, ample; but we found one of the tanks for hot water cut of order, and learnt that for many months past it had not supplied hot water. There is a sufficient supply of water-closets, baths, and lavatories. The building is in great part fireproof.

The number of inmates is 173, of whom 20 are able-bodied, 134 aged and infirm, and sick, and 29 children. The workhouse is always very nearly full.

Number of beds  
and size of rooms.

The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds in each ward.

No of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.		Breadth.		Height.		Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	
77	Women's sick ward - - -	19	6	15	3	11	0	13
78	Ditto - ditto - - -	+ 21	10	18	6	11	0	
79	Ditto - ditto - - -	10	0	15	3	11	0	3
89	Women's lying-in ward - -	19	6	15	3	11	0	12
	Ditto - ditto - - -	+ 21	10	18	6	11	0	
65	Women's dormitory (convalescent).	19	6	15	3	11	0	9 double. 2 single.
	Ditto - ditto - - -	+ 21	10	18	6	11	0	
16	Men's sick ward - - -	19	6	12	6	10	9	5
	Ditto - ditto - - -	+ 5	9	1	6	10	9	5
12	Ditto - ditto - - -	19	6	12	6	10	9	
	Ditto - ditto - - -	+ 5	9	1	6	10	9	6
21	Ditto - ditto - - -	19	6	12	6	11	0	
	Ditto - ditto - - -	+ 10	0	3	0	11	0	2
20	Ditto - ditto - - -	13	6	8	6	11	0	
18	Ditto - ditto - - -	13	6	8	6	11	0	2
17	Ditto - ditto - - -	19	6	12	6	11	0	6
	Ditto - ditto - - -	+ 10	0	3	0	11	0	
11	Women's itch ward - - -	14	10	14	0	10	0	5
19	Men's itch ward - - -	14	10	14	0	10	0	5
9	Women's insane ward (not used).	15	0	13	3	10	9	4
	Ditto - ditto - - -	— 7	0	1	9	10	9	
	Ditto - ditto - - -	— 5	0	1	3	10	9	4
12	Men's insane ward (not used)	15	0	13	3	10	9	
	Ditto - ditto - - -	— 7	0	1	9	10	9	4
	Ditto - ditto - - -	— 5	0	1	3	10	9	

Hence it appears that the usual height of the rooms is 11 feet; whilst the width is very various.



The floor space and cubical space to each bed are as follows.

Appendix.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
77 and 78	Women's sick ward - - - - -	54	593
79	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	559
89	Women's lying in ward - - - - -	58	643
65	Women's dormitory (convalescent) - - - - -	35	386
16	Men's sick ward - - - - -	50	543
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	543
21	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	502
20	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	57	631
18	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	57	631
17	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	502
11	Women's sick ward - - - - -	42	415
19	Men's itch ward - - - - -	42	415
9	Women's insane ward (not used) - - - - -	45	484
12	Men's insane ward (not used) - - - - -	45	484

ST. MARGARET  
AND ST. JOHN'S,  
WESTMINSTER.

The usual floor space and cubical space is therefore 42 to 57 superficial, and 415 to 643 cubic feet; and four of the wards offer less than 500 cubic feet to each bed.

The rooms are irregular in form, in a degree which I have not seen equalled in any other building whatever; and indeed it is almost incredible that any architect could have had ingenuity enough to devise a workhouse in which the staircases are so winding and dark, and bounded by angular walls, the corridors so narrow, the rooms so generally small, and with scarcely one room in the whole building which has four right angles, or the form of which is regular. So ill-devised a building for the accommodation of the sick must surely be unique. Even the larger rooms are divided into two parts, which communicate by a wide archway, and are of unequal form and size.

There are windows on two sides of the wards in a large majority of the wards, but they are small; and although probably sufficient light is admitted, many of the wards look anything but cheerful.

The bedding consists of flock beds placed upon iron bedsteads, with iron laths. The bedsteads are six feet to six feet three inches in length, and two feet five inches to two feet six inches in breadth; but some of the beds are not made long enough to cover the bottom of the bedsteads. The bedding is, however, generally good; and the bed covering sufficient.

There are a few common-looking lockers, and some night-chairs in each ward. The forms have no backs or cushions to them; and the chairs are few, although with the beds the small irregular rooms are nearly filled. There are extremely few cupboards and bookshelves. The prints are very few and uninteresting. The supply of illustrated periodicals has recently been stopped, except a copy of the "Illustrated News," which the chaplain brings. There is a very small library; and a Bible and Prayer Book are placed in each ward. There are no games, as draughts and dominoes; and the inmates sat in all the rooms without amusement or occupation.

There is not a table in the itch and fever ward; and a woman sitting in that ward ate her dinner upon her lap.

On the whole there is a great deficiency of furniture, and there is very little that gives an aspect of comfort to the wards.

One towel is supplied to each inmate, and several roller towels to a whole ward. Soap is distributed to each ward. The sheets are changed weekly, and usually more frequently.

The linen, wards, and furniture were clean. The linen of the labour bed was a little stained; but there was a mackintosh sheeting; and the bed, as well as the other beds in the lying-in wards, were clean.

The ventilation of this workhouse is exceedingly bad, although there are commonly windows on two sides of the wards; and there are also one or two open fire-places in each room.

There are a very few air bricks in the workhouse, and they were closed; but many of the rooms had no ventilators. Even in a large room there were only two air bricks. There were no panes of perforated glass in the windows; no ventilators in the roof; no opening over the doors. The wards were said to be exceedingly close at night; and bearing in mind the radical defect in the construction of the building, and the close air of the surrounding neighbourhood, they could not be otherwise. The air in the corridors and various small rooms, even in the middle of the day, was very close and disagreeable.

No ventilation whatever exists in the miserably small fever wards.

There are three paid nurses, viz., one for the lying-in ward, who is also the midwife; one for the female infirmary, and one for the male infirmary; each of whom receives 16*l.* per year, with rations. They do not sleep in the wards. There is also at least one pauper helper to each ward, and she sleeps with the inmates; but there is difficulty in obtaining pauper help; and when they have become useful, and particularly at the season of the year when work may be readily obtained, they leave the workhouse.

Form of wards and  
general character.

Bedding and fur-  
niture.

Cleanliness.

Ventilation.

Nursing.

## Appendix.

ST. MARGARET  
AND ST. JOHN'S,  
WESTMINSTER.

There is not a paid night nurse, neither is there an appointed pauper night nurse; but the pauper helpers act as night nurses, as occasion may require.

The medical officer advises that there should be another paid nurse on the men's side, and also a paid night nurse.

The sick wards are not locked at night.

There is a chaplain, who attends four or five days weekly, and performs Divine service, and reads prayers in the wards. He is always sent for in cases of danger, and to the dying. The salary is 50*l.* per year.

The medical officer has held the appointment for about 30 years, and still performs the duties in person. He attends during about two hours daily, and on all dying cases, and whenever he is sent for. He does not employ an assistant in this duty, but his medicines are dispensed by a druggist, at a cost of about 25*l.* or 30*l.* per year. The guardians provide cod-liver oil, quinine, sarsaparilla, sulphur, and lard.

His salary is 100*l.* per year; and there are not any extras, even for midwifery.

He is of opinion that the guardians should find all the drugs; and that with the present salary there should be payment for extras, viz., for midwifery, lunacy certificates, and vaccinations.

Roasted meat is supplied twice a week; and whatever diets, stimulants, and medical appliances are ordered, are readily supplied.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to the workhouse:

1. The character of this workhouse differs somewhat from others, since it is rather intended to be a temporary residence for paupers on their way to the larger workhouse at Kensington, than a place where they should be permanently treated, and hence may not need the same appliances and comforts which ought to be present in a workhouse; but I am still of opinion that it is not fit for the proper care of the sick in its present state, and should be discontinued. As I am informed, the guardians desire, and intend, to remove the workhouse to a larger site, and to rebuild it in a more suitable manner.

2. The ventilation should be at once improved in every ward and corridor. Air bricks, of a somewhat larger size, should be inserted in the opposite sides of every room, and as near to the ceiling as practicable, and kept open night and day, care being taken to cover the inside with perforated zinc if needful. Openings of large size should be made above each door leading from the corridors, and covered with perforated zinc; and ventilators, similarly covered, should be placed in the ceilings of the upper floor.

The windows in the corridors should have perforated glass panes; and something should be done to substitute iron railings for walls on the staircases, to render them more light and airy.

3. Cases of itch should not be placed in the fever ward.

4. No cases of fever or small-pox should be treated in this workhouse.

5. Greater care should be taken to prevent the occurrence of bed sores.

6. Prints, illustrated periodicals, amusing and religious books, games, lockers, cupboards, book-shelves, and looking-glasses, should be provided in greater abundance. The forms should have backs and cushions. An air of comfort should be given to the rooms; and it would further tend to that end if the wards were coloured of a light blue or light green colour.

7. One or two paid night nurses should be provided.

8. The emoluments of the medical officer should be increased, and the guardians should provide all the drugs.

9. A day room on each side is needed for the use of the sick and convalescent.

10. A dietary, with meat and beer daily, should be provided for the aged and infirm.

11. Some of the wards are overcrowded. Two women, whether sick or convalescent, should not occupy the same bed; and only the following number of single beds should be placed in each ward.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
77 and 78 }	Women's sick ward - -	11	21	Men's sick ward - - -	3 or 5
79	Ditto - ditto - - -	2 or 3	20	Ditto - ditto - - -	2
89	Women's lying-in ward - -	10 or 11	18	Ditto - ditto - - -	2
65	Women's dormitory (convalescent).	—	17	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 5
16	Men's sick ward - - -	3 or 5	11	Women's itch ward - -	2 or 4
12	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 5	19	Men's itch ward - - -	2 or 4
			9	Women's insane ward (not used).	
			12	Men's insane ward (not used).	



No. 20.

## ST. JAMES, WESTMINSTER.

WE visited this workhouse on 28th April and 8th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

ST. JAMES,  
WESTMINSTER.

It is situate in Poland street, in the centre of a populous district, and is well drained. Certain parts of the building are very old; and a row of old houses belonging to the parish occupy the land immediately facing the street, and might, if needful, be pulled down for the enlargement of the workhouse. The building on the north side is of recent erection, and of improved construction.

The sick are, for the most part, placed in separate sick wards, the women being in the new, and the men in the old building; but a few are found from time to time in the aged and infirm wards.

There are not any fever and small-pox wards, since cases of that class are sent to the hospitals. The imbeciles, with the exception of three cases on the men's side, and two on the women's side, are distributed through the workhouse. Itch cases on the men's side are placed in a part of a large room on the basement, separated by dwarf partitions from the receiving wards. Venereal cases are also received into another and similar part of the same room; and in the course of a day or two are removed into the wards, and mixed with the ordinary sick, or they are sent to the Lock Hospital. A similar combination of receiving ward, itch ward, and venereal ward, exists on the women's side.

There are not any day-rooms for the use of the sick. A plentiful supply of cold water exists in all parts of the workhouse. Hot water must be carried up into the women's wards; but on the men's side there are small boilers, which supply hot water enough for a bath. Gas is supplied to the workhouse.

There are lavatories, water-closets, and baths, in various parts of the workhouse.

There are now 628 inmates, of whom 224 are sick, and upon the books of the medical officer, 343 are aged and infirm, 41 are able-bodied, and 20 are children.

The following are the dimensions of the several wards occupied by the sick, with the number of beds in each ward:—

Number of beds, and  
size of rooms.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
9	Women's sick ward - -	40 8	10 7	11 9	9
10	Ditto - ditto - - -	40 8	16 7	11 9	13
11	Ditto - ditto - - -	40 8	17 5	11 9	15
18	Ditto - ditto - - -	40 8	17 9	11 9	1 double 13 single.
31	Men's sick ward - - -	56 3	18 6	10 9	14
32	Ditto - ditto - - -	53 8	25 0	10 6	17
42	Men's insane ward - -	24 0	10 2	11 0	3
42a	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 4	10 2	11 0	3
	Women's insane ward, day room.	15 0	8 9	12 1	—
	Women's bed room - -	16 0	9 9	12 1	4
	Women's itch ward - -	26 2	9 4	9 0	3 double. 1 single.
	Ditto - ditto - - -	13 4	9 8	9 0	3
	Women's receiving ward -	30 3	16 2	9 0	6 double. 1 single.

Thus, the usual height of the sick wards is from 11 to 12 feet, and the width about 17 feet.

## Appendix.

The floor space and cubic space allowed for each bed is as follows:—

ST. JAMES,  
WESTMINSTER.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
9	Women's sick ward - - - - -	48	562
10	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	609
11	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	555
18	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	565
31	Men's sick ward - - - - -	74	791
32	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	79	829
42	Men's insane ward - - - - -	81	895
42a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	69	758
-	Women's insane ward, day room - - - - -	—	—
-	Women's bed room - - - - -	39	466
-	Women's itch ward - - - - -	35	314
-	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	387
-	Women's receiving ward - - - - -	38	338

The general floor space and cubic space for each bed is 47 to 79 superficial, and 555 to 895 cubic feet; and of the "sick wards" none have less than 500 cubic feet. The small room in the basement for venereal and other cases offers less than 400 cubic feet.

## General character of wards.

The rooms are in general very long in proportion to their width, and in length occupy the whole width of the building. There are windows at each end; but from the length of the rooms they are scarcely sufficient to render the rooms light and cheerful. However, in all respects, the wards in the new building are much to be preferred to those in the old building. The itch wards in the basement, both on the men's and women's side, are dark and cheerless, and are not fit for the treatment of any kind of disease.

## Bedding and furniture.

The bedding consists of flock beds and iron bedsteads. On the women's side the bedsteads have iron laths, and there is a straw palliasso under the bed; but on the men's side the iron bedsteads have sacking, and the bed is placed directly upon it.

The flocks are not properly teased, and many therefore are lumpy. There is not a machine, or any system of keeping the flock teased and soft.

The rugs are, for the most part, old, yellow, and not cleanly looking, and should not be continued; but woollen rugs of a reddish colour and cheerful appearance have been introduced into some of the wards.

There are lockers in the ward, also a few book-shelves, a looking-glass, a few chairs, some small benches without backs and cushions, and a very few prints; but, in general, the aspect of the wards is somewhat wanting in comfort.

No illustrated periodicals are purchased by the guardians; but many are given to, or bought by, the patients. We did not see many interesting or religious books.

One sheet is changed weekly, and more frequently when necessary. Three or four roller towels are provided for the inmates in each ward, as well as a few tea towels, and towels for the use of the medical officer. Two combs, and two hair brushes, are supplied to each ward. There are several wash-hand basins in the wards; and soap is allowed in any required quantity. The arrangements in the itch wards are much less satisfactory. Some excellent prints have been given to the workhouse, and the master is now hanging them on the walls.

## Cleanliness.

The beds are six feet in length, and two feet five inches and three feet in width.

We visited this workhouse early in the morning, and before the rooms were perfectly cleaned; but with the exception of the sheets in the itch, venereal, and lunacy wards, everything seemed to be fairly clean. Many of the bed rugs looked dirty. The labour bed was clean, and an impermeable sheet is used upon it, but not upon the other lying-in beds.

## Ventilation.

The construction of the wards renders their ventilation somewhat difficult, since the space of outside wall is very small in proportion to their capacity. There are ventilators in the outer wall, and also into air flues in the side of the rooms. On the women's side the former are capable of being enclosed by a door, and when the door is opened the volume of air which is admitted must be large, and require division by perforated zinc. On the men's side the ventilators are protected by a covering board placed on an inclined plane, and direct the current of air towards the ceiling; but many of them are shut and exclude the air.

There are not any openings in the long bare partition walls between the rooms, and thereby the ventilation, as well as the light, is less than it might be.

The corridors are wide on the women's side, and as the ventilation is dependent upon windows without perforated glass, they are insufficiently ventilated.

The ventilation in the basement wards is not equal to that of the upper rooms; and a drain smell was perceptible at the sink attached to the men's basement wards. That also of the small imbecile wards is not at all satisfactory. The ventilation in the basement wards, on the women's side, is even more unsatisfactory than that of the men's wards.

## Nursing

There are not any paid nurses in the workhouse, except the midwife, who, in addition to attending to cases of midwifery in and out of the house, acts as nurse in the midwifery ward.

There



There is a pauper nurse, and two or three helpers in each ward. The former receives 1s. per week, and the latter 4½d. per week, besides extra food. They in turn also act as night nurses; but a male night nurse is appointed to the charge of three wards on the men's side.

The master had not known more than three cases in which the nurses had taken the stimulants ordered for the patients, and very generally they are reliable and well conducted.

The master and matron issue the stimulants, and the pauper nurses receive and administer them. They also administer the medicines; and although all can read to some extent, some of them make mistakes.

The medical officer has occupied his present position for 35 years; and no change has been made in it, or in his emoluments, for 30 years. Medical officer.

He attends to all the in-door and out-door poor of the parish; the former duty being chiefly performed by himself personally, and the latter by his assistant; and he is allowed private practice.

About two hours per day are devoted to the in-door, and about three hours to the out-door poor; but either himself or his assistant receives frequent summonses to attend the sick, both by day and night. He also visits the lunatics in the Asylum, and the children at the schools in the country; attends to cases of midwifery of an unusually difficult character, and vaccinates the children. For these various duties he receives 350 l. per year, and provides the requisite drugs, dispenser and assistant, leaving a net income of 200 l. per year or upwards.

He thinks the present arrangement is advantageous to the poor; and he is satisfied with his present position and emoluments.

He finds many pauper nurses who are very well conducted, and who take great interest in the performance of their duties; and he is not dissatisfied with them. He thinks, however, that one superintendent nurse for the day, for both sexes, would be of advantage; and he speaks most highly of the watchfulness of the workhouse master.

He considers that there is sufficient accommodation for the sick, but the rooms in the basement are too dark. The cases of illness do well in the different wards. There are sufficient baths and water-closets.

The following are the recommendations which I offer in reference to this hospital:—

Recommendations.

1. It is clear that as the workhouse is now over full in winter time, more accommodation is required. This might be, at least in great part, provided by taking down the houses belonging to the parish, and erecting proper wards with a frontage to Poland-street.

2. The wards in the basement should be immediately closed.

3. The ventilation should be further improved by taking away the shutters and coverings, and substituting perforated zinc. Also by making openings in the partition walls, as in No. 31, with or without a window which may be opened, and fixed a little open.

The ventilation of the corridors should be improved by having permanent openings in the windows.

4. Hot water should be supplied by pipes to all parts of the workhouse.

5. The wards should be decorated and rendered cheerful, and the chairs and other furniture somewhat increased.

6. The old rags should be removed, and the linen and bed-ticks in certain of the wards kept more cleanly.

The flock in the beds should be regularly teased, and the beds made softer.

7. At least two day and two night paid nurses should be appointed; and to them alone should be committed the duty of receiving and administering the stimulants and medicines.

8. Two day rooms should be provided for convalescents.

9. Until better classification can be effected, it would be wise that all cases of venereal disease should be sent to the Lock Hospital.

The drugs, and all medical appliances, should be provided by the guardians; and extras for vaccination, midwifery, and lunacy certificates should be allowed to the medical officer, as permitted by the Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board. He should also be paid for an assistant.

The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
9	Women's sick ward	7	42a	Men's insane ward	3
10	Ditto - ditto	12 or 13	—	Women's insane ward, day room.	—
11	Ditto - ditto	12 or 14	—	Women's bed-room	—
18	Ditto - ditto	12 or 14	—	Women's itch ward	—
21	Men's sick ward	16 or 18	—	Ditto - ditto	—
32	Ditto - ditto	17 or 18	—	Women's receiving ward	—
42	Men's insane ward	4	—		

No. 21.

## KENSINGTON.

Appendix.  
KENSINGTON.

WE visited the workhouse at St. Mary Abbott's Kensington, on 9th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

It is admirably situated in one of the most healthy suburbs of London, and is surrounded by land which is well laid out as an ornamental garden. The sub-soil is of gravel, and the drainage good.

The sick are placed in a detached infirmary, which was built only four or five years ago in the rear of the main building, in certain low one-storied buildings, which were built for schools, and for other purposes, and in the main building which was erected nearly 20 years ago.

Cases of fever and small-pox are almost invariably sent to the hospitals; but there is a foul ward in which a case of fever, temporarily retained, would be placed with other infectious cases. It is, however, practically correct to state that all such cases are sent away.

Noisy and violent lunatics are sent away, and the quiet inmates of that class are distributed throughout the building.

Venereal cases are not admissible, according to the instructions of the guardians, but a few obtain entrance.

Cases of itch, hooping cough, and other infectious diseases, on the women's side, are placed in one ward.

There is not a separate sick nursery.

The children are sent to an industrial school at Plashet.

There are in the workhouse about 280 sick persons.

There are three day rooms for the use of the sick, viz., one for the children, one for men, and one for insane men.

There are lavatories and portable baths, but there are not any fixed baths, neither is there hot water on the upper floors.

The water is from an Artesian well, and is very soft and abundant.

The following are the measurements of the various sick wards, with the number of beds found in the rooms:

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
	Nursery - - - - {	30 8 +30 8	16 0 13 6	10 6 1 6	13
	Infirmary:				
	Lying-in ward - - -	17 0	18 0	12 0	6
	Ditto - (convalescent) {	22 9 +22 9	16 9 14 3	10 6 2 6	8
	Women's foul ward - -	12 3	12 3	9 0	3
	Imbecile women - - -	50 3	20 0	12 0	22
1	Women's sick ward (convalescent). {	29 6 +29 6	17 0 14 6	10 6 2 6	11
2	Women's sick ward - - {	51 6 +51 6	20 0 16 0	10 6 2 6	21
3	Ditto - ditto - - - {	29 8 +29 8	17 0 14 6	10 6 2 6	10
4	Men's convalescent ward (night only),	39 0	15 4	11 10	15
	Men's day room - - -	23 9	15 4	11 10	—
5	Men's sick ward - - -	33 9	16 1	9 10	12
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	33 10	15 5	9 11	12
7	Ditto - ditto - - - {	39 2 +39 2	15 6 13 6	10 6 3 3	13
8	Men's imbecile ward - -	23 6	13 4	9 0	5
9	Ditto - ditto - - - {	30 6 +30 6	16 2 13 2	10 3 2 6	13
10	Women's itch ward - - -	20 0	17 4	13 0	8
11	Women's aged and infirm ward.	35 0	17 2	12 0	14
12	Ditto - - ditto - - -	35 0	17 2	12 0	14
13	Ditto - - ditto - - -	34 0	16 10	11 0	13
14	Ditto - - ditto - - -	35 5	17 0	11 0	13

Hence

Size of rooms, and number of beds.



Hence it appears that in the infirmary the usual height and width of the rooms are 10 to 12 feet, and about 16 feet, and many are much too narrow.

The floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed in the several rooms are as follow :

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
	Nursery - - - - -	38	444
	Infirmary :		
	Lying-in ward - - - - -	51	612
	Lying-in (convalescent) ward - - - - -	48	601
	Women's foul ward - - - - -	50	450
	Imbecile women - - - - -	46	548
1	Women's sick ward (convalescent) - - - - -	46	576
2	Women's sick ward - - - - -	49	613
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	627
4	Men's convalescent ward (night only) - - - - -	40	472
	Men's convalescent ward (day-room) - - - - -	—	—
5	Men's sick ward - - - - -	45	445
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	431
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	622
8	Men's imbecile ward - - - - -	63	564
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	38	466
10	Women's itch ward - - - - -	43	563
11	Women's aged and infirm ward - - - - -	43	515
12	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	43	515
13	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	44	484
14	Ditto - - - ditto - - - - -	47	522

Hence the usual cubical and floor space to each bed is 43 to 50 superficial feet, and 431 to 637 cubic feet ; and five wards offer less than the cubical space required by the Poor Law Board.

The wards in the infirmary are, for the most part, light and cheerful. Several of them, as the women's insane ward, have windows on both sides, and are all that could be desired ; whilst others, as those numbered 5 and 6 on our list, being placed side by side, and having a blank partition wall between them, are much less desirable.

General character of wards.

Those in the main building, which are occupied by the aged and infirm, have windows only on one side, or on one side and end only. One of these, marked by us No. 11, has the greater part of the ward without any window, and must be dark and gloomy in the winter. However, No. 14 of the same class is much more cheerful.

The rooms appropriated to the nursery were built for school-rooms, and have windows on one side only. There is also a skylight in the adjoining day room. A precisely similar suite of room is also appropriated to the male insane. These rooms, although built partly in the roof, and being therefore somewhat lofty, are not cheerful. A smaller room, appropriated to the male insane (No. 8 in our list), is much less desirable ; and the room appropriated to infectious cases is, in my opinion, most undesirable.

The beds are good and clean, universally, and consist of flock beds, placed upon iron bedsteads, with laths. The quilts are of white cotton, and look cheerful ; and the linen and other bed covering is good.

Bedding and furniture.

There are very few lockers, and no looking-glasses, very few prints, but few illustrated periodicals, few chairs, and scarcely any benches with backs. Hence there is, I think, a deficiency of furniture. Some pottery washhand-basins are provided for the different wards ; but in one ward, at least, they had been broken, and some of the inmates washed themselves in chamber pots. This, when brought to the attention of the master, seemed to be unknown to him ; and he at once stated that new washhand-basins should be supplied.

There are not any roller towels ; but each person has a small towel and a piece of soap.

With the exception of the practice just referred to, cleanliness was evident every- where.

Cleanliness.

Both sheets are changed weekly. The quilts were clean ; the labour-bed clean, and defended by Mackintosh sheeting. The wards, furniture and wards were clean.

The ventilation of the wards is not entirely dependent upon the windows ; but Arnott's ventilators are placed in nearly all the wards ; and openings, covered by perforated zinc, are placed in the ceilings of several of the rooms. The former, however, not being in the chimney flue, but in the outer and inner walls, do not act either efficiently or uniformly, and were too few in number ; and the latter were for the most part covered over with white-wash, and other more dense material. Hence here, as elsewhere, the ventilation is for the most part very imperfect, and that of the infectious ward exceedingly bad. The nursery,

Ventilation.

female

## Appendix.

## KENSINGTON.

## Nursing.

female venereal ward, convalescent ward, and male insane wards (Nos. 8 and 9), should also be specially cited.

There is only one paid non-pauper nurse, and to her is confided the superintendence of the whole system of nursing, and a portion of the duties of a midwife. She receives 30*l.* per year, and officer's rations. There is also one pauper nurse, and one or two helpers to each ward. The nurses receive 1*s.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, or 2*s.* 6*d.* per week, with extra food and clothing. Nearly all the pauper nurses can read; but cases have occurred in which the wrong dose or the wrong medicine has been given to the patient, particularly when several patients of the same name were in the same ward. The master is not favourable to the system of pauper nurses, and does not think them reliable. It has not been known that any of the nurses take the stimulants belonging to the inmates, although they fetch them from the stores, and administer them.

## Medical Officer.

The medical officer has charge of a district, as well as of the workhouse. He supplies all drugs, and they cost him about 40*l.* per year for the workhouse alone, and he does not employ an assistant or a dispenser. Three hours daily are devoted to the in-door, and one hour and a half daily to the out-door poor. His salary for the workhouse is 85*l.* per year, and for the two appointments 160*l.*, with about 80*l.* yearly as extras for midwifery, vaccination, and lunacy certificates. No addition has been made to his salary since about 1850; and he thinks that the guardians should provide all drugs, and increase the salary to 250*l.* yearly.

He is of opinion that many of the wards are ill ventilated; and that the nursery and other low one-storied buildings are overcrowded, or deficient in a sanitary point of view, and ought to be pulled down. The infirmary buildings and other sick wards are full, and more space is required. A sick nursery is needed.

A dietary for the aged is needed, which should give meat and beer daily; and, for the want of such a dietary, he is compelled to place upon his sick books about 110 of the 280 cases found there.

There should be one paid day nurse for the men, one nurse for the lying-in ward, one for the female insane ward, one for the female sick wards, and two night nurses. This recommendation is also concurred in by the master.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse:—

1. The one-storied low buildings, now occupied by the children, insane and infectious cases, should be pulled down, and the accommodation for the sick reconsidered. Proper infectious wards, sick nursery, nursery, insane and other wards should be provided.

2. The use of the present infectious ward should be at once discontinued, and fever cases should be kept entirely apart from any others.

3. Fixed baths, with hot and cold water supply, should be placed on all the floors. Hot water should be supplied by pipes to all parts of the workhouse.

4. More furniture, of the kinds before-mentioned, prints, illustrated periodicals, simple games, as dominoes and draughts, washhand-basins, &c., should be supplied. The disgraceful practice of washing in chamber pots should be discontinued, and in future the nurse and other officials who allow it should be punished.

5. The number of paid nurses, suggested by the medical officer, should be provided; and to them alone should be entrusted the obtaining, and distribution of the stimulants and medicines.

6. The guardians should provide all drugs, and increase the salary of the medical officer.

The ventilation should be universally improved.

(A.) The Arnott ventilators on the side walls should be removed, and open air-bricks, covered by perforated zinc, substituted. The number should be doubled, or trebled.

(B.) The present ventilators should be cleaned and opened.

(C.) On the upper floors ventilators should be placed in the ceiling.

(D.) Openings should be made in partition walls, and over the doors leading from the lobbies.

This is especially needed in the lying-in wards, the convalescent ward, the female venereal ward, the nursery, the infectious ward, the male insane wards, Nos. 5, 6, and 7, for men; but all require attention.

The ventilation of the corridors should be improved.

8. A special dietary for the aged and infirm should be provided.

9. More accommodation is needed.

10. No case of fever, small-pox, or venereal disease should be admitted, with the present accommodation.

11. The



11. The following is the number of beds which should be allowed in each ward :—

Appendix.  
KENSINGTON.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
	Nursery - - - -	—		Men's convalescent ward (day room).	
	Infirmary :		5	Men's sick ward - - -	10
	Lying-in ward - - -	4 or 5	6	Ditto - ditto - - -	10
	Lying-in ward (convalescent) -	6	7	Ditto - ditto - - -	12
	Women's foul ward - - -	2	8	Men's imbecile ward - - -	—
	Imbecile women - - -	—	9	Ditto - ditto - - -	—
1	Women's sick ward (convalescent).	8 or 10	10	Women's itch ward - - -	6
2	Women's sick ward - - -	16 or 18	11	Women's aged and infirm ward	12
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 10	12	Ditto - ditto - - -	12
4	Men's convalescent ward (night only).	—	13	Ditto - ditto - - -	12
			14	Ditto - ditto - - -	12

### No. 22.

### ST. MARGARET AND ST. JOHN, AT KENSINGTON.

THIS workhouse is associated with that already described (No. 19) since it receives inmates from it. We visited it on 9th and 10th May, and were accompanied by the master, medical officer, and chaplain.

ST. MARGARET  
AND ST. JOHN, AT  
KENSINGTON.

It is situate on the side of the Kensington Workhouse, and has therefore the same advantage in salubrity of position; its garden ground is, however, less agreeably laid out, and some doubts were expressed as to the perfection of the drainage.

There are large schools, in which 150 children are lodged and educated; and as there are not any separate sick wards for their use, many who become ill, even with an infectious disease like itch, remain in the same dormitories with those who are healthy.

The sick are placed in a small infirmary, containing, so far as the accommodation extends, somewhat over 50 beds; but the greater number remain in the wards of the aged and infirm, in the body of the workhouse.

Cases of fever and smallpox are sent to the hospitals, whilst noisy and violent cases of lunacy are sent to the asylum. Very few cases of venereal disease are admitted, and there are scarcely any lying-in cases.

Hence the sick consist chiefly of the aged and infirm, and such cases of general disease as are sent in by the relieving officers.

There are 647 inmates, of whom 151 are children, 97 are able-bodied, and 381 aged and infirm. About 400 of these persons are upon the medical officers' books; and 40 of them are imbeciles.

There are good lavatories, but with cold water only. There is one fixed bath in the infirmary, and there are several portable baths in different parts of the building. Hot water, when required for a bath, must be carried from below.

There is not a day-room in the infirmary, but there are several in the body of the workhouse, attached to dormitories; yet as in many cases the sick remain in bed day and night, they are not much benefited by them.

The following are the dimensions of the several rooms, and the number of beds now found there. The numbers in the infirmary simply indicate the order in which we saw them.

Size of rooms, and  
number of beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which appropriated.	Length.	Breadth	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
1	Men's sick ward - - -	18 2	12 0	11 0	9
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	29 0	13 9	11 0	
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	+11 6	3 0	11 0	
		18 1	12 2	11 3	3
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	29 0	13 9	11 3	9
		+11 6	3 0	11 3	

## Appendix.

ST. MARGARET  
AND ST. JOHN, AT  
KENSINGTON.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
5	Women's lying-in ward -	15 2	11 2	11 0	3
6	Children's sick ward -	15 2	11 0	10 2	2 double.
7	Ditto - ditto -	29 8	16 0	10 0	9
8	Women's sick ward -	18 1	12 2	11 3	3
9	Ditto - ditto -	29 2	13 10	11 3	9
10	Ditto - ditto -	+11 6	3 0	11 3	3
11	Ditto - ditto -	18 0	12 0	11 0	3
		29 2	13 10	11 0	9
		+11 6	3 0	11 0	
Main Building:					
	Small room for married couples -	11 5	7 8	10 9	1 double.
		+2 0	3 6	10 9	5 double.
57	Women's sick ward -	16 0	15 6	10 9	1 single.
68	Ditto, sick and infirm ward -	62 0	17 0	10 9	23
69	Ditto - ditto -	53 0	17 0	10 9	20
72	Ditto - ditto -	52 0	21 4	10 9	25
		+17 0	12 9	10 9	
78	Ditto - ditto -	52 0	21 4	9 6	29
		+17 0	12 9	9 6	
75	Ditto - ditto -	53 7	16 9	10 9	20
50	Men's sick and infirm ward -	43 7	17 0	10 7	16
51	Ditto - ditto -	40 9	17 0	10 0	15
47	Ditto - ditto -	40 9	17 0	10 9	15
46	Ditto - ditto -	43 6	17 0	10 9	16

Hence the usual height and width of the sick wards in the infirmary is 11 feet, and 12 to 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  feet; and in the body of the workhouse, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  feet, and 17 to 21 feet; and many in the body of the workhouse are much too narrow.

The cubical and floor space allowed to each bed is as follows:

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Adult.	Cubical Space allowed to each Adult.
	Infirmary:	<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
1	Men's sick ward -	73	799
2	Ditto - ditto -	48	529
3	Ditto - ditto -	73	825
4	Ditto - ditto -	48	541
5	Women's lying-in ward -	56	621
6	Children's sick ward -	42	424
7	Ditto - ditto -	53	527
8	Women's sick ward -	73	825
9	Ditto - ditto -	49	547
10	Ditto - ditto -	72	792
11	Ditto - ditto -	49	535
Main Building:			
	Small room for married couples -	47	508
57	Women's sick ward -	25	265
68	Ditto sick and infirm ward -	46	493
69	Ditto - ditto -	45	484
72	Ditto - ditto -	53	570
78	Ditto - ditto -	46	434
75	Ditto - ditto -	45	482
50	Men's sick and infirm ward -	46	490
51	Ditto - ditto -	46	462
47	Ditto - ditto -	46	496
46	Ditto - ditto -	46	497

Hence the usual amount of space in the infirmary is 48 to 73 superficial feet, and 529 to 825 cubic feet. In nine out of ten of the wards in the main building the cubical quantity allotted to each person is less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

The workhouse and the infirmary are fire-proof. In the infirmary there is usually a small ward containing three beds attached to a larger one of nine beds, which, we were informed, were intended originally as the day room to the dormitory.

The windows are small, but, being numerous, the rooms are not dark.

The



The wards in the body of the workhouse are, for the most part, long and narrow, and well lit from both sides. Some, as Nos. 72 and 78, are large and handsome, although somewhat irregular in form. Those on the ground floor are darkened somewhat by a verandah, which has been placed above these windows; but, generally speaking, the wards are light, airy, and cheerful.

The chimneys in the infirmary smoke; and stone-breaking and dust-sifting take place under the infirmary windows.

The bedding is of flock, upon iron bedsteads. The flock is not so well teased as it should be, and many of the bedsteads, in the body of the building, have hard thick wooden laths. There are straw mattresses in the infirmary wards, and in ward No. 72.

Bedding and furniture.

The quilts are white and cheerful, and the linen and bedding good.

Several hundreds of prints have recently been placed upon the walls; and even a larger number of books accumulated in the library, through the exertions, as we were informed, of the chaplain and medical officer. There are shelves for the crockery, but not for books. The chairs are few, and there is only one backed bench in the infirmary. There are not any looking-glasses. Three roller towels are provided twice a week for four wards; and there are three washhand basins for two wards in the infirmary. In the body of the workhouse, two roller towels and six small towels, two combs and two brushes, are provided for a ward of 20 persons.

There are not any dressers or lockers.

Every part of the workhouse, linen, beds, floors, and tables, were found to be perfectly clean.

Cleanliness.

The ventilation is effected by two systems of air bricks, one of which is inserted under the floors, and the other is placed in air-flues, which run from the ground floor to the roof. The number of each is about two in a ward; and those which are intended to open into the room were almost universally shut.

Ventilation.

There are also, in a few wards, panes of perforated zinc in one or two of the windows, on the side opposite to the brick ventilators; and in one room there was a pane of perforated glass.

There are, however, eight rooms for married couples, in which there is not any ventilator.

One or two fireplaces are found in the wards; and in the upper dormitories they are enclosed, and covered up by boards.

Hence some preparation has been made for the ventilation of the wards; but the extent is quite inadequate to the requirements, and the rooms generally are ill-ventilated.

The corridors are also ill-ventilated.

There are three paid nurses; one of whom is the superintendent nurse for the whole of the inmates; the second is her assistant, and is devoted to the duties in the infirmary; and the third is engaged in the infants' nursery. They receive 25*l.*, 15*l.*, and 16*l.* per year respectively, with rations.

Nursing.

There is also a pauper nurse to each ward, who receives 1*s.* per week, and extra diet; and a helper, who has no extras. The master has not discovered any impropriety of conduct on the part of the pauper nurses; but he does not approve of the system of nursing by paupers only.

The medical officer has also charge of a small district; and the salary for both is undivided. There are about 400 persons in the workhouse upon his list, but from 200 to 300 of these are placed there simply to obtain a proper dietary, and would be removed if a dietary, with meat and beer daily, were provided for the aged and infirm. He devotes about three hours daily to the discharge of his duties at the workhouse.

Medical officer.

His salary for the two offices is 160*l.* per year; and he provides, at a cost of 20*l.* per year, all drugs except cod liver oil, sarsaparilla, and the preparations of quinine. There are no extras for the workhouse; but in his district, when he is required to attend a case of midwifery, he is paid 5*s.* only!

He considers that the medical officer of the workhouse should not have charge of a district; and that his salary should be increased to 250*l.* per year, the guardians finding all the drugs and a dispenser.

He is not satisfied with the system of pauper nursing, and thinks that for the infirmary there should be two paid day and one paid night nurse; and the same for the body of the workhouse.

The workhouse is quite full, and indeed crowded, in the winter season, to the extent of 100 more than it can properly accommodate. If the children were removed from the schools, it would supply the requisite accommodation.

The ventilation is deficient. He has not perceived any evil results from it in the treatment of the cases; yet he thinks that they would have done better, with better sanitary arrangements.

A children's sick ward, a fever ward, a foul ward, and a venereal ward are needed; and there should be sufficient space in the infirmary in which to place all the sick.

The schools are so crowded that 40 girls above seven years of age have slept in 13 beds, and sometimes six infants are placed in one double bed.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse.

Recommendations.

1. The number of air-brick ventilators should be more than doubled, and perforated glass or zinc be inserted in some of the windows of nearly all the wards. Openings should

also

## Appendix.

ST. MARGARET  
AND ST. JOHN, AT  
KENSINGTON.

also be made over the doors of wards leading from the corridors, and in the ceiling of the upper story, and all covered with perforated zinc. No room should be without at least two ventilators.

The corridors should be better ventilated by the use of perforated glass in the windows. All the ventilators should be opened, and kept open.

2. The number of paid nurses should be increased, as recommended by the medical officer.

3. More space is required. The children have at present very small yards, much like those of a prison, and might be removed with advantage to more suitable grounds.

4. A larger number of fixed baths, with hot and cold water, are needed; and hot water should be supplied to all parts of the building.

5. More furniture, as dressers, lockers, chairs, benches with backs and cushions, looking-glasses, also capes, towels, combs and brushes, are needed.

6. The stone-breaking and dust-sifting should be carried on in a more convenient place.

7. A dictary for the aged should be provided.

8. Two day rooms are required in the infirmary.

9. The flock beds should be kept in good order.

10. The use of double beds for adults and sick should be discontinued.

11. A water-closet in No. 51 should be removed.

12. The wards should be coloured in a manner somewhat similar to No. 46.

13. The emoluments of the medical officer should be increased.

14. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:

Number Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary :			Main Building :	
1	Men's sick ward - - -	3	—	Small room for married couples	
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 9	57	Women's sick ward - - -	4 or 5
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	68	Women's sick and infirm - -	19 or 20
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 9	69	Ditto - - ditto - - -	16 or 18
5	Women's lying in ward - -	2	72	Ditto - - ditto - - -	20 or 21
6	Children's sick ward - - -	—	78	Ditto - - ditto - - -	20 or 21
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	—	75	Ditto - - ditto - - -	16 or 18
8	Women's sick ward - - -	3	50	Men's sick and infirm ward -	13 or 14
9	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 9	51	Ditto - - ditto - - -	13
10	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	47	Ditto - - ditto - - -	13
11	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 9	46	Ditto - - ditto - - -	13 or 14

## No. 23.

## ST. GEORGE, HANOVER-SQUARE.

ST. GEORGE,  
HANOVER  
SQUARE.

WE visited this workhouse on the 10th May 1856, and were accompanied by the Master and one of the medical officers.

The workhouse (one of two belonging to this parish) is situate in a salubrious locality, and is well drained. It is, however, entirely surrounded by buildings, except on the western side, where there is a disused graveyard, constituting an open space contiguous with the yards, and which might probably be further utilised as exercising grounds for this workhouse.

Cases of fever, smallpox, syphilis, and lunacy are, for the most part, sent to other institutions; but there are two very large wards, in one of which a case of fever or smallpox, and in the other a few cases of venereal disease are sometimes placed. There is also a ward in which we found three lunatics.

There are no children retained in the workhouse.

There are water-closets, portable baths, and lavatories, with hot and cold water in various parts of the workhouse. There are not any fixed baths for the use of the sick.

The sick are placed in wards within the body of the workhouse, except cases of itch, and some of the special classes just referred to, which are treated in buildings in the rear.

The



The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds contained in each ward:—

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
8	Men's sick ward - -	44 10	17 9	10 6	12
9	Ditto - ditto - -	27 0	17 0	10 6	7
10	Ditto - ditto - -	27 0	16 9	10 6	8
11	Ditto - ditto - -	27 10	16 9	10 6	7
12	Ditto - ditto - -	28 3	17 2	10 6	7
13	Ditto - ditto - -	44 8	21 6	10 6	13
		+ 4 7	5 7	10 6	
16	Women's convalescent ward	27 0	19 5	8 9	6
17	Women's lying-in ward -	27 0	19 10	8 9	6
18	Women's sick ward - -	26 5	19 6	13 0	7
19	Ditto - ditto - -	26 3	19 6	13 0	8
20	Ditto - ditto - -	58 7	16 6	13 0	16
	Men's itch ward - -	39 4	15 7	9 9	6
	Men's receiving ward -	15 6	10 9	9 0	2
	Men's insane ward - -	20 0	17 0	10 10	4
		+ 16 0	13 0	2 2	

Hence it appears that in the body of the workhouse, the height and width of the rooms are  $8\frac{3}{4}$  to 13 feet, and  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to  $21\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

The floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed at present, are as follow:—

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
8	Men's sick ward - - - - -	66	696
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	65	688
10	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	56	593
11	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	66	699
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	69	727
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	72	755
16	Women's convalescent ward	87	764
17	Women's lying-in ward -	89	781
18	Women's sick ward - -	73	957
19	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	64	832
20	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	60	792
	Men's itch ward - - - - -	102	996
	Men's receiving ward -	83	750
	Men's insane ward - -	85	1,033

Hence the usual floor space, and cubical space, allotted to each bed in the sick wards are 60 to 89 superficial feet, and 593 to 832 cubic feet; and the minimum cubical space is in all cases greater than that required by the Poor Law Board.

The general appearance of the wards in the body of the workhouse is very satisfactory. The workhouse is an old building, but in its construction is far in advance of many of the newer workhouses. General character of wards.

There are two very large square central staircases, well lit from the top by large lantern lights, and affording light and air to a large part of the building. The rooms are lofty and sufficiently large, and although the windows are not numerous, they are large and lofty, and the rooms universally are light and cheerful. Many of the wards are divided transversely by a double partition to constitute a passage through them, and their appearance is thus somewhat deteriorated.

The wards appropriated to lunatics and itch cases are much less satisfactory. The former is sufficiently large, but it is darkish and not cheerful, and the latter is long and narrow, and lit only on one side.

The wards, appropriated to occasional cases of fever, &c., are much too large to be comfortable to one or two inmates, and are occupied chiefly by unused bedsteads.

The bedding is of flock upon iron bedsteads, with racks and sacking, and is very good and comfortable. The linen and bed coverings are good and sufficient. There are dressers upon which the crockery and metallic warmers are placed. Lockers for the use of the sick, screens, chest and foot warmers, night-chairs, water-beds, air-cushions, and mackintosh sheeting, are in sufficient abundance. There are, however, scarcely any prints upon the walls, or looking glasses; and there are not for the sick such simple games as draughts and Bedding and furniture.

## Appendix.

ST. GEORGE,  
HANOVER  
SQUARE.

Cleanliness.

Ventilation.

and dominoes. Five round towels, two basins, and one comb are allowed to a ward; but no brush is supplied.

Every article of furniture, all the linen, and every part of the workhouse were scrupulously clean.

Ventilation is provided for, apart from the windows. There are large openings in all the wards, which communicate with corridors or adjoining rooms, and are closed by wooden shutters, which turn upon a central pin. There are also Arnott's ventilators in the chimneys, which act satisfactorily. The windows, moreover, are so made that the lower sash can be made to fall forward into a rack, and thus cause an opening on the side of the sash, and at the middle of the window.

The arrangements for ventilation are not, however, so good in the itch and lunacy wards.

Nursing.

There are two paid nurses, who together superintend the whole nursing in the workhouse, and receive 50 *l.* per year each, with apartments and rations. There is also a pauper nurse in each ward receiving 2 *s.* per week, and a helper who receives 1 *s.* per week, besides extra food; and a night nurse to each ward, receiving 1 *s.* per week, one pint of beer and extra food daily.

The inmates of this workhouse are said to be chiefly servants who have had a certain training in earlier life, and who are well fitted to be nurses. Both the master and medical officer spoke highly of them, and neither of them was dissatisfied with the present arrangement. Misconduct amongst the nurses is rare, and all stimulants and medicines are given under the supervision of the paid nurses.

Medical officer.

There are two medical officers to the workhouse; and each has a district in the parish, in addition to this duty.

The cases in the workhouse are divided somewhat equally between them; and each has an alternate month in which he takes in the new cases, and devotes a larger amount of time and attention to the duties of the office.

Each medical officer attends during about two hours daily, and about one hour a-day on alternate months. They attend to the midwifery cases, and provide assistant and dispenser, and all drugs except quinine and cod-liver oil. The salary of each, for the workhouse, is 100 *l.* per year, with extras for lunacy certificates only, and 105 *l.* per year for the district.

The medical officer is not dissatisfied, but thinks that the salary for the workhouse might properly be increased to 150 *l.* per year, unless the guardians were to provide all the drugs and a dispenser.

Recommendations.

He is not dissatisfied with the present nursing arrangements; but possibly a paid night nurse might be of advantage.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse:

1. The wooden shutters on the various ventilators should be removed, and the space covered by finely-perforated zinc, so as to allow a continuous but gentle current of air at all times.

2. Ventilators should be placed in the wooden partitions, so as to allow the influence of the ventilating staircases to be felt in the wards.

3. A skylight with louver-lights is needed in the lunacy ward; and large air-brick ventilators should be inserted on two sides, and covered with perforated zinc. Larger and more cheerful windows should be placed in the side walls.

4. Ventilators are needed in the blank wall of the itch ward; and a few small panes of perforated glass should be inserted in the windows.

5. It would be more comfortable if the large ward, in which a single infectious case is kept, could be divided into two, or the patient placed in a smaller ward.

6. Very great advantage would accrue to the inmates if they could be permitted to walk in the disused graveyard. This space is not otherwise employed; and as it belongs, as we were informed, to the Marquis of Westminster, it is not improbable that this concession could be obtained.

7. A separate towel, comb, and brush, and piece of soap should be provided for each sick inmate. Looking-glasses, prints, games, and amusements should be increased.

8. If the lifts were so arranged that some of the inmates could be let down, and hoisted by it, it would enable the feeble to go into the yards.

9. A paid night nurse should be appointed, and another paid nurse, to have charge of the cases not placed in the body of the workhouse, viz., the few fever, smallpox, venereal, itch, and lunacy cases, would be a wise arrangement.

10. The guardians should find all the drugs, and a dispenser, for the workhouse and for the districts.

11. As the allowance of space in every ward is ample, it is not necessary that I should indicate the number of beds to be placed in each room.



No. 24.  
HACKNEY.

Appendix.

HACKNEY.

WE visited the Hackney Workhouse on the 11th of May, 1866; and were accompanied throughout by the master or matron, and, in part, by the assistant of the medical officer. We also subsequently compared with the medical officer.

This workhouse is admirably situated, and occupies a part of a large plot of land belonging to the guardians.

The main body of the building occupies three sides of a parallelogram, and contains all the adult inmates, whether sick or otherwise. Part of it has been built many years, and additions have been made from time to time, and so injudiciously, that one part has nearly blocked up the windows of another part.

There are also large schools which, with the chapel, constitute a detached building; and there is also a recently constructed iron house consisting of two rooms, in which the sick children are placed.

Cases of fever and small-pox are, for the most part, sent to the hospitals, but occasionally it becomes requisite to admit them, and a separate ward must be extemporized for their use. A few cases of venereal disease are admitted; and, on the men's side, they are placed in the itch ward, or in an adjoining ward, whilst the females are placed in a separate room. Violent and dangerous lunatics are not admitted except for the purpose of being forwarded to an asylum at the earliest moment. The inoffensive ones are retained, and occupy separate rooms.

There is no attempt to classify the sick into medical and surgical, or acute and chronic cases.

There are not any day rooms for the use of the sick, but there are some for the imbeciles. The lying-in ward is so small as to hold the labour bed only, and the cases are removed as soon possible to the convalescent lying-in ward. The latter, however, is not a day room, but a day and night room.

There is a kitchen in the sick ward where food is warmed, and chops and beef cooked, but the food must be carried, on the plates, more than 150 yards from the general kitchen. There are also three rooms where the washing-up is done.

The buildings are well drained. There is an abundant supply of good cold water, but hot water is not found upstairs except in the small boilers of the grates. There is only one fixed, and one portable bath.

There are 613 inmates, of whom 13 are able-bodied, 35 are imbeciles, and 119 are upon the books of the medical officer.

The dimensions of the several rooms, with the number of beds found in the rooms, are as follows:—

Size of rooms and number of beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
10	Men's sick ward - -	27 10	16 9	7 3	10
		+27 10	13 9	2 0	
9	Ditto - ditto - -	38 0	16 9	7 3	12
		+38 0	13 9	2 0	
8	Ditto - ditto - -	37 6	16 9	9 0	12
7	Ditto - ditto - -	23 4	16 9	9 0	8
		- 4 4	2 9	7 0	
		+ 6 6	4 0	9 0	
6	Ditto - ditto - -	22 6	16 9	9 0	7
5	Ditto - ditto - -	46 0	16 9	9 0	15
44	Women's infirm ward - -	25 9	13 6	9 9	6
43	Women's sick and infirm ward	16 4	15 0	9 8	6
65	Ditto - ditto - -	50 6	17 3	10 3	19
78	Ditto - ditto - -	23 0	16 0	8 0	7
		+23 0	13 0	1 8	
78(a)		23 0	16 0	8 0	8
		+23 0	13 0	1 8	
72	Women's lying-in ward - -	12 0	9 10	10 0	2
79	Women's convalescent ward	22 8	16 0	10 0	7
80	Women's sick ward - -	22 8	16 0	9 10	8
69	Ditto - ditto - -	22 8	16 0	9 10	8
74	Ditto - ditto - -	22 8	16 0	9 11	7
62	Women's bed-ridden ward - -	46 6	18 0	10 0	20
	Women's foul ward - -	14 8	11 6	10 6	4
		+ 7 6	4 3	10 6	
	Women's itch ward - -	26 2	13 2	10 7	6
	Children's sick ward - -	19 9	17 6	11 0	7
	Ditto - ditto - -	19 9	17 6	11 0	7
	Men's foul ward - -	16 0	11 10	8 4	2
	Men's itch ward - -	14 0	11 10	8 4	5

## Appendix.

## HACKNEY.

Hence it appears that in the body of the workhouse, the usual height and width of the wards are 9 to 10 feet, and 16 to 17 feet.

The floor space and cubical space, allowed to each bed, are as follow :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
10	Men's sick ward - - - - -	46	414
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	53	472
8	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	471
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	458
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	54	484
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	462
44	Women's infirm ward - - - - -	58	565
43	Women's sick and infirm ditto - - - - -	41	395
65	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	470
78	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	492
78(a)	- - - - -	46	430
72	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	59	590
79	Women's convalescent ward - - - - -	52	518
80	Women's sick ward - - - - -	45	446
69	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	446
74	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	514
62	Women's bed ridden ward - - - - -	42	418
	Women's foul ward - - - - -	50	526
	Women's itch ward - - - - -	57	508
	Children's sick ward - - - - -	49	543
	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	543
	Men's foul ward - - - - -	94	789
	Men's itch ward - - - - -	33	276

Hence the usual floor space and cubical space, are 41 to 59 superficial, and 395 to 590 cubic feet; and 13 of 21 wards do not offer 500 cubic feet, as required by the Poor Law Board.

The itch ward is of very small capacity.

## General character of wards.

Nearly all the rooms throughout the workhouse are both low and narrow; but as there are windows on two or three sides, they are all light, and if properly coloured and furnished would be cheerful. The staircases and corridors are also very small and narrow, and give a very confined air to the whole building. Certain rooms in the basement and even on the ground floor, as the male and female foul wards, are dark and cheerless.

The rooms in the iron house are not satisfactory.

## Bedding and furniture.

The bedding throughout the workhouse is fairly good. It consists of flock placed upon iron bedsteads, with iron laths or sacking. The rugs are of wool, and of red colour; and the bed coverings are good.

There is in general, a great deficiency of furniture, and an aspect of bareness and want of comfort. There are rooms without a dresser on which to place the crockery. There are no lockers for the inmates, and scarcely any chairs; and such as are there, are for the most part old and repulsive. The tables are very small; the benches are similarly small, and without cushions; there are no looking glasses on the men's side, and no prints. We did not see any illustrated periodicals. There are games, as dominos and draughts. There are also screens in some of the wards, and there also chest and foot warmers in all the wards.

The plates used are of tin, and are old and repulsive. Tin pannikins are also used instead of pottery mugs. The buckets and other large utensils, and even the swill tub (emptied and cleansed daily) are placed in the lavatories.

There is not one room which has been coloured, but all are whitened. The windows on the sunny side have green blinds.

Three towels are supplied twice a week to a ward; and there are also to each ward a metal washhand basin, two combs and soap; but no hair brush is supplied to the adults.

## Cleanliness.

The workhouse is generally clean; and with some few exceptions the linen and utensils are clean also.

## Ventilation.

Much pains have been taken to improve the ventilation of this workhouse. In nearly every room there are three sets of ventilators, viz., an Arnott's ventilator in the chimney; openings in the ceiling, which are covered with perforated zinc, and which communicate directly with the outer air, by air bricks in the walls, or shafts going through the roof; and openings from the corridors and staircases, defended on the outside by metal, with large meshes, and on the inside by a wooden case which is intended to direct the current upwards.

There was also a system of ventilation by means of an open and perforated pannel in the



the doors; but it has been abolished by boarding up the perforated zine. In one or two places pieces have been cut out of the top of the doors; and in a few windows these are perforated panes.

But, notwithstanding all this, the workhouse is very ill ventilated. When we entered a room in which the windows were not open, the air was close; and we were informed that in the early morning the air was very close.

This is accounted for in several ways.

1. A majority of the ventilators are closed up; and many of the Arnott ventilators are tied up. The ventilators in the ceiling are covered with paper; or have been covered by flannel, to prevent too great a current of air. The wooden protectors of the ventilators from the corridors interfere too much with the entrance of air.

2. None of the ventilators open immediately into the outer air. Those in the ceiling have the nearest approach to this; and when the wind blows in certain directions, the outer air bricks, or the chimneys in the roof, permit too strong a current of air, and thus defeat the object of those who placed them there.

3. They are not sufficiently numerous.

4. The corridors and staircases are too much enclosed, and are not the great ventilators of the wards, as they should be.

5. The rooms are too full of inmates.

But whatever care may be taken in this matter, the result can scarcely be satisfactory, with rooms so low and narrow, and with corridors and staircases so small and confined. It will be difficult to introduce a sufficient quantity of air by ventilators to keep the wards sweet, without allowing the current to be felt by those who occupy the beds; but with an improved system, an extended plan, and constant ventilation by day and night the temperature would not be raised, as at present; and the inmates would be less sensible of the admission of the outer air.

The rooms in the basement, and the two lying-in rooms, were perhaps the most close of any perceived by us.

The windows are, for the most part, made to open by swinging on a central pin, and there are open fire-places.

There are only two paid nurses in the workhouse, one of whom has only just been Nursing. appointed. And it is intended that one shall have charge of the men, and the other of the women. The present superintendent nurse is also practically the midwife; for although the medical officer is presumed to attend these cases, it frequently occurs that the labour is terminated in his absence. These receive 35 *l.* and 25 *l.* per year.

There is also a pauper nurse, and a helper, to each ward. Two men of this class receive 1 *s.* and one 1 *s.* 6 *d.* each, weekly; and the woman who has charge of the receiving ward, with the itch cases, receives 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per week, besides extra food and stimulants.

No special night nurses are appointed, except when any case is very ill.

The matron distributes and administers all the wine and spirits, and the paid nurses are expected to give all the medicine.

The master is not dissatisfied with the present arrangement, and whilst the assistant to the medical officer does not think the pauper nurses truthful, he considers their conduct to be good, on the whole. He does not think that any additional paid nurses are really necessary. There are, however, many important sick cases in the workhouse, which require attention during the night.

The medical officer usually attends twice or thrice a week; and when an epidemic Medical officer. occurs he attends daily, or twice a day. His assistant attends at least twice a day; and altogether about 1½ to 2 hours per day are devoted to the duties. There are usually about 150 cases upon his books; and of them about 100 are sick; but nearly half of them are placed upon his books, that they may obtain meat or beer, or both daily.

The salary is 130 *l.* per year; and the medical officer finds his own assistant, and all drugs, except cod-liver oil, and quinine. There is no extra fee for midwifery, or vaccination; but 10 *s.* 6 *d.* is paid for each lunacy certificate.

We were informed that, in his opinion, the guardians should provide drugs, pay extra fees for midwifery, and vaccinations, and give 150 *l.* per year as salary. Subsequently we met the medical officer, and were informed by him that his salary should be 200 *l.*

The following are the recommendations which I offer, respecting this workhouse:—

1. It is almost, if not quite, impossible to render these rooms properly adapted to the treatment of the sick, on account of their narrowness. At present they are adapted for one row of beds only; or, at the most, for one row with their heads to the wall, and one row with their sides to the opposite wall. If one of the walls were taken out, and the rooms widened, so as to give a clear width of 20 feet, this evil might be obviated; but the rooms would still be too low for proper ventilation; and, above all, the staircases must be enlarged and widened, and the length of the rooms thus reduced. Recommendations.

Wider and higher rooms, and wider and larger staircases and corridors, are necessary.

2. The rooms in the basement, and the dark room used for female foul cases, should not be used for the treatment of the sick.

## Appendix.

## HACKNEY.

3. Proper fever and infectious wards are needed.

4. Baths and hot water are needed on each floor.

5. Much more furniture is needed, such as dressers, lockers, cupboards, chairs, cushions, book and other shelves, pottery, plates and mugs, and prints. A separate towel, piece of soap, comb and brush, should be allotted to each sick person. All the the utensils should be placed in cupboards. The walls should be tinted.

6. Two paid night nurses, one paid day nurse for the lying-in-ward, and one paid day nurse for the sick children's wards, are, I think, needed.

7. The salary and emoluments of the medical officer should be increased, and he should personally discharge the duties of the office. He should have proper extras for midwifery; and should attend each case; or his assistant should be appointed with him as an additional medical officer.

8. The ventilation should be universally improved.

1st. In the iron house, instead of the two stoves, there should be brick chimneys, with open fire-places. A louvre light is needful in each; and one opening should be placed in the partition wall. The inside of the roof should be boarded to prevent the room being so hot in summer, and cold in winter; and the outside of the roof should be whitewashed in the summer time.

2nd. In the body of the workhouse all the ventilators should be kept open. The Arnott ventilators should be untied, and cleaned out monthly. The wooden protectors of the ventilators from the corridors should be taken away, and perforated zinc placed over the openings. As the draught is too great in the ceiling ventilators, some coarsely perforated zinc, should be placed over the air-brick on the outside; and the shafts through the roof may be removed.

Air bricks, of the thickness of one brick, should be placed in the walls, on both sides, close to the ceilings, or the upper sashes of the windows, on one or both sides, should be so fastened that they cannot be quite closed, and a strip of perforated zinc, four inches wide, should be placed across the top of the sash frame.

Perforated glass should be placed in all the outside windows, which open upon the stair-cases and corridors; and in every door in the corridors; and care should be taken that a current of air moves through every corridor night and day.

9. The padded room is dark, and unfit for use.

10. Generally the master and matron should not wait to be asked for combs, &c., but should supply all proper things, and the matron should agree with the medical officer in reference to the nurses.

11. Better kitchen arrangements are needful. Proper modes of conveying food, as at the City of London Workhouse, should be adopted. Crockery should supplant tin ware; and the kitchen should be more centrally situate.

12. I do not doubt that the proper course for the guardians with their excellent plot of land is, to pull down the present building, and erect a properly devised and constructed one.

So long as the present building is used, there should be a day room attached to each two dormitories, since the rooms may be properly used as dormitories or day rooms, although not for both.

13. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in the several wards:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
10	Men's sick ward - - -	7 or 8	79	Women's convalescent ward -	6
9	Ditto - ditto - - -	10	80	Women's sick ward - - -	4 or 5
8	Ditto - ditto - - -	10	69	Ditto - ditto - - -	4 or 5
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7	74	Ditto - ditto - - -	4 or 5
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	5 or 6	62	Women's bed ridden ward -	13 or 14
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	12		Women's foul ward - - -	2 or 3
				Women's itch ward - - -	4 or 5
44	Women's infirm ward - - -	6			
43	Women's sick and infirm ward -	4		Children's sick ward - - -	—
65	Ditto - - - ditto - - -	15		Ditto - ditto - - -	—
73	Ditto - - - ditto - - -	6 or 7			
78(a)	- - - - -	6 or 7		Men's foul ward - - -	2
72	Women's lying-in ward - - -	1 or 2		Men's itch ward - - -	2



No. 25.

## EAST LONDON.

Appendix.

EAST LONDON.

WE visited the workhouse on the 14th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

It is situate on a healthful and extensive site, in the parish of Homerton, and is said to be well drained.

The sick are placed in the infirmary, and in seven wards in the body of the workhouse.

The infirmary consists of a central portion, and wings, each having one room in depth. It is three storeys in height, and contains 12 wards.

There is a separate kitchen for the sick, where the meat is cut up, and certain kinds of food cooked.

There are baths on the ground floor, and first floor, with hot and cold water, but none on the second floor. There are no lavatories. The water closets are confined in space, but perhaps sufficiently numerous.

The body of the workhouse consists of two series of rooms, with a corridor interposed, but there is no communication with the corridor, except by the door. There are neither fixed baths, nor hot water. The lavatories are much too numerous, and some of them should be supplanted by baths.

Fever cases, and small-pox cases, are sent to the hospitals, but there is a very small ward set apart, on each side, for a single fever case, when such must be retained. In one of these we found a girl, with all her joints contracted, who last October was said to be the picture of health, and is now the most pitiable and wretched object I have ever seen out of a lunatic asylum. We could not learn all the facts of this case, and it is one which demands further inquiry on the part of the inspector.\*

Cases of syphilis are retained. The men's ward is in the infirmary, whilst the women's ward is in the body of the workhouse; and cases of itch, and bad legs, are also placed in the latter ward. Two women of this class are, however, now placed in the infirmary.

The children are sent to a district school. When any which remain in the workhouse are sick, even with scarlet fever, they are placed in the wards with adults. There is not a children's sick ward.

The cases in the infirmary are not classed into acute, or chronic, but there is a ward on each side which is used for convalescents, before they are passed to the body of the workhouse.

The wards in the body of the workhouse, in which sick cases are found, are those of the aged and infirm.

There are in the workhouse 653 inmates, of whom 228 are upon the medical officer's books. The imbeciles, as a class, are not regarded as sick, and of the 228 just mentioned, about 100 are placed on the medical officer's books merely that they may obtain a better dietary.

The following are the dimensions of the several sick wards, with the number of beds now found in them:—

\* This has been effected.

Size of rooms and number of beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
11	Woman's convalescent ward	20 0	17 6	11 9	8
12	Woman's lying-in ward	6 9	12 6	11 6	10
		+ 22 3	16 0	12 6	
		+ 22 3	11 6	2 3	
9	Woman's sick ward - -	20 0	17 6	11 6	7
10	Ditto - ditto - -	29 6	17 6	11 6	12
7	Ditto - ditto - -	20 0	17 6	11 6	7
		+ 20 0	12 6	2 6	
8	Ditto - ditto - -	29 6	17 6	11 6	12
		+ 29 6	12 6	2 6	
8 (a)	Woman's fever ward - -	10 4	7 6	12 6	2
4	Men's sick ward - -	20 2	17 6	11 6	7
		+ 20 2	12 6	2 6	
5	Ditto - ditto - -	29 6	17 6	11 6	12
		+ 29 6	12 6	2 6	
5 (a)	Men's fever ward - -	10 4	7 6	12 6	1
2	Men's sick ward - -	20 2	17 6	11 6	7
3	Ditto - ditto - -	29 6	17 6	11 6	12
13	Men's foul ward - -	29 6	17 6	11 10	14
1	Men's convalescent ward	20 0	17 6	11 10	8

Appendix.  
EAST LONDON.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Main Building :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
37	Women's sick ward - -	24 6	23 0	11 6	18
47	Women's foul ward - -	24 6	23 0	11 9	12
		+ 19 6	20 6	2 6	
48	Women's sick ward - -	24 6	18 3	11 9	10
		+ 19 6	15 9	2 6	
25	Women's sick and infirm ward	26 2	17 9	12 4	12
26	Ditto - ditto - -	26 0	18 0	12 4	11
30	Ditto - ditto - -	24 6	17 9	12 4	11
24	Ditto - ditto - -	32 10	17 9	12 4	14

Hence it appears that the usual height and width of the wards in the infirmary are 11½ to 14 feet, and 17½ feet, and they are too narrow.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed in the different wards, are as follows:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
	Infirmary :	<i>Sup. Feet.</i>	<i>Cub. Feet.</i>
11	Women's convalescent ward - - - -	44	514
12	Women's lying-in ward - - - -	44	599
9	Women's sick ward - - - -	50	575
10	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	495
7	Ditto - ditto - - - -	50	664
8	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	571
8(a)	Women's fever ward - - - -	39	484
4	Men's sick ward - - - -	50	670
5	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	571
5(a)	Men's fever ward - - - -	78	969
2	Men's sick ward - - - -	50	580
3	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	495
13	Men's foul ward - - - -	37	436
1	Men's convalescent ward - - - -	44	518
	Main Building :		
37	Women's sick ward - - - -	31	360
47	Women's foul ward - - - -	47	635
48	Women's sick ward - - - -	45	602
25	Women's sick and infirm ward - - - -	39	477
26	Ditto - ditto - - - -	42	525
30	Ditto - ditto - - - -	39	487
24	Ditto - ditto - - - -	41	513

The usual floor space and cubical space in the infirmary are, therefore, 37 to 50 superficial feet, and 436 to 599 feet. In the main building one ward affords only 360 cubic feet, and there are altogether seven of 21 wards in which the cubical allowance is less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

General character of wards.

The wards are, for the most part, light and airy. Those on the second floor and the wings of the infirmary have windows on both sides, but those on the basement and first floor have windows on one side only since imbecile wards have been built quite up to them and have prevented the opening of windows on that side. As, in the body of the work-house, there are no windows leading to the corridors, there are windows on one side only.

The wards of the infirmary are faulty; since the passage from one to the other runs along the side of each ward, and prevents the placing of beds on that side. There should have been a corridor, or the passage through the rooms should have been in the middle. It was, moreover, most injudicious that the imbecile wards should have been built in their present situation, particularly as there is plenty of ground elsewhere on which they could have been placed.

There are no wards too large to be useful, but the two small wards, 8 A and 5 A, are too small, and are unfit for the use of the sick. Some of the panes had been coloured green, which rendered the room dark, and others white, which prevented the inmates from looking out of the windows.

Bedding and furniture.

The bedding is fairly good, and consists of flock beds upon iron bedsteads. The flock is not teased systematically; and is not, therefore, in so good a state as desirable. An old woman



woman is the only person performing this duty, whilst there are about 100 young women and no less than 245 able-bodied, who are not half employed, and who might be usefully set to perform this and other labour.

The bedsteads differ in width from 2 feet 3 inches to 3 feet, the newest ones being 2 feet 9 inches by 6 feet 3 inches in length. There are no racks to the beds.

There are no dressers, lockers, or bookshelves. There are very few chairs, and many of these are old and uncomfortable. There are no cushions to the benches. The prints upon the walls are very few and unimportant. There is no place in which to put the buckets and larger utensils, and, in general, there is a marked deficiency of furniture, and of comforts connected with it.

There are looking-glasses, about one dozen small towels, six basins, and two combs to each of the larger wards, but brushes are not used. A piece of soap is given to each inmate, and a further piece is used for the wards.

The washhand basins are frequently broken, and it was said that watchfulness was required to prevent some of the inmates from washing in the chamber pots. The medical officer, who had been a militia officer, stated that the same habit existed among the militia.

There are capes, bed trays, and cloths; and pottery, plates, and mugs.

With the exception just referred to, cleanliness existed everywhere and in every-  
thing. Cleanliness.

The arrangements for ventilation at the workhouse are good, and it is only requisite to extend them. A piece of perforated zinc, of the depth of a pane, is fastened to the top of each window sash, so that when the window is let down, the rapidity of the entrance of air is retarded, and the current may, within limits, be borne. Holes, covered with perforated zinc, are placed in the ceiling, and others, with a cast-iron ventilator, are placed in the floors, and both are connected with the outer air by air bricks. Ventilation.

The former, however, do not act when the windows are closed, and the latter are sometimes closed. There is a defect in the absence of similar openings over the doors in the infirmaries, and in partition walls, and in the absence of windows, or ventilators leading into the corridor in the body of the workhouse.

Hence, during the night, the ventilation must be defective, and even during the day the smell of the wards which have windows on opposite sides, is very much fresher than that of those with windows on one side only. The ventilation of the two small rooms before mentioned is very defective.

There are four paid nurses in the workhouse, two of whom have charge of 81 imbeciles, and two others have charge of the general sick. The former receive 35 *l.* and the latter 25 *l.* and 20 *l.* per year. Of the latter, one is the superintendent, whilst the other is her assistant, and they both give attention to both sexes of inmates. We were informed that the superintendent is advanced in life, and is not so efficient as a younger person might be. They give all medicines and stimulants to the patients. Nursing.

There is also one pauper nurse, and at least one pauper helper to each ward. Some of them occasionally get drunk, perhaps one out of 20 in a fortnight, but it is not believed that they take the stimulants of the inmates.

There is not a paid night nurse.

The medical officer has a partner, who aids him in his duties. He devotes about two hours daily to the sick, and it requires six hours per week to fill up his medical book. He finds all drugs, except cod-liver oil, and provides his own dispenser. Medical officer.

His salary has been raised within six months, and is now 125 *l.* per year, with about 20 *l.* per year for extras, from midwifery, vaccination, and lunacy certificates.

He thinks that a paid night nurse would be of advantage, but he is not dissatisfied with the present system of nursing further than this, and the necessity for having somewhat younger and efficient paid nurses. The sick wards, whether in the infirmary or workhouse, are too full, and some of them contain more beds than the allotted number. There should be a sick children's ward, a larger ward for occasional cases of fever, and separate and proper syphilitic wards.

He thinks that the guardians should provide drugs, and a dispenser, and that the salary should be increased to 150 *l.*, in addition to extras.

More waste paper should be given to the inmates, and thus prevent the closing up of water closets, by rags and refuse; there are plenty of medical appliances, and he orders all these, and extra diet and stimulants, as freely as he thinks proper.

There should be a special dietary for the aged and infirm.

The following are the recommendations which I make respecting this workhouse:

Recommendations.

1. The ventilation should be improved by plugging all the windows open to the extent of two inches, and by inserting perforated zinc into the upper part of the sash frame; also by making ventilating windows in the corridor walls, and by keeping all ventilators open.

2. More furniture, and comforts of that class, should be provided, including cupboard, dressers, lockers, arm chairs, rocking chairs, cushions, bedsteads with racks, prints, combs and brushes, &c.

3. The very narrow bedsteads should be removed, and wider ones supplied.

## Appendix.

## EAST LONDON.

4. The flock in the beds should be regularly teased.
5. One or two paid night nurses should be appointed, one for the infirmary, and one for the body of the workhouse, and care should be taken that the paid nurses are efficient.
6. The passage through the infirmary ward should be changed to the centre, and beds placed on both sides.
7. The guardians should find drugs, and a dispenser (to be partly employed as a clerk, or otherwise), and increase the salary of the medical officer.
8. The colouring should be removed from the windows, and proper blinds put up.
9. Baths, with hot and cold water, should be placed on each floor.
10. Wards No. 8 A. and 5 A. on our list, should not be used for the sick. A proper fever ward, on each side, a children's sick ward, and another female venereal ward should be provided.
11. The infirmary might be readily extended on the present site.
12. Day-rooms and lavatories should be provided.
13. The very large number of the able-bodied inmates, and particularly of young women, deserve the serious attention of the Guardians.
14. Some of the infirmary wards are too crowded, and the following is the number of beds which should be allowed in each ward :

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
INFIRMARY :			3	Men's sick ward - - -	8 or 9
11	Women's convalescent ward -	6	13	Men's foul ward - - -	8 or 9
12	Women's lying-in ward - -	7 or 8	1	Men's convalescent ward -	5 or 6
9	Women's sick ward - - -	6	MAIN BUILDING :		
10	Ditto - - ditto - - -	8 or 9			
7	Ditto - - ditto - - -	6			
8	Ditto - - ditto - - -	8 or 9	37	Women's sick ward - - -	8
8 A	Women's fever ward - - -	1	47	Women's foul ward - - -	8
4	Men's sick ward - - -	5 or 6	48	Women's sick ward - - -	8
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	—	25	Women, sick and infirm -	8
5 A	Men's fever ward - - -	1	26	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
2	Men's sick ward - - -	5 or 6	30	Ditto - ditto - - -	7 or 8
			24	Ditto - ditto - - -	10

No. 26.

## ISLINGTON.

## ISLINGTON.

WE visited the Islington workhouse on the 15th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

It is an old building, dating from 1777 and 1802, and is situated in an elevated and healthful part of the town. It is surrounded by buildings, but the yards are open, and give a cheerful appearance to it. We were informed that the trustees had purchased another site, and had prepared plans for the erection of a new workhouse; but as some delay must occur before the inmates can be removed from the present one, we thought it better to inspect and report upon it.

There is not a detached infirmary, but the sick are somewhat classified, and, for the most part, placed in sick rooms, in the body of the workhouse, whilst a few are placed in other buildings.

Fever and small-pox cases, and noisy or dangerous lunatics, are sent to the respective hospitals. A few quiet lunatics are retained, and are distributed through the workhouse. The children over two years of age are placed in a separate school.

There is not a separate itch ward, but such cases are placed with other foul cases in the foul ward. Nearly all the venereal cases are sent to the Lock Hospital.

There are about 470 inmates in the workhouse to-day, of whom 11 only are able-bodied, 7 imbeciles, and 205 sick.

There are not any day-rooms for the use of the sick. There are no fixed baths, but there are portable ones. An abundant supply of cold water exists in all parts of the workhouse, but hot water must be carried upstairs. There is gas in the various wards.

The



The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds contained in each ward:—

Appendix.

ISLINGTON.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.	Size of rooms and number of beds.
	Main Building :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>		
8	Women's sick ward - -	37 9	21 0	8 6	13	
7	Ditto - ditto - -	29 9	17 7	7 10	10	
6	Ditto - ditto - -	30 6	17 8	8 0	10	
4	Ditto - ditto - -	30 5	17 7	8 3	10	
		— 6 6	3 6	8 3		
5	Ditto - ditto - -	30 3	17 6	8 3	10	
	Women's lying-in ward -	20 5	11 6	10 3	5	
	Women's lying-in ward (convalescent ward).	25 2	20 5	10 3	7	
		— 8 6	3 3	10 3		
	Women's sick ward (convalescent).	29 10	17 6	9 1	9	
2	Women's sick ward - -	25 6	17 6	9 3	10	
		+ 8 0	3 9	9 3		
3	Men's sick ward - -	30 5	17 7	9 3	10	
1	Ditto - ditto - -	30 5	17 7	9 3	10	
	Detached Buildings :					
24	Women's sick ward - -	38 10	18 0	12 3	17	
		+ 38 10	14 0	2 0		
26	Ditto - ditto - -	10 0	18 10	9 9	4	
		+ 10 0	14 10	2 0		
27	Ditto - ditto - -	12 2	10 2	10 0	2	
25	Ditto - ditto - -	10 0	18 10	9 9	5	
		+ 10 0	14 10	2 0		
29	Men's sick ward - -	26 6	19 3	9 9	9	
		+ 21 9	9 8	5 0		
23	Ditto - ditto (convalescent).	41 8	18 9	10 3	16	
		+ 41 8	14 3	2 3		

Hence it appears that the usual height and width of the wards, in the body of the workhouse, is 8 to 10 feet, and 17  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 21 feet.

The floor space, and cubical space, allowed to each bed, are as follows:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
	Main Building :	<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
8	Women's sick ward - - - -	61 0	518 0
7	Ditto - ditto - - - -	52 0	410 0
6	Ditto - ditto - - - -	54 0	431 0
4	Ditto - ditto - - - -	51 0	422 0
5	Ditto - ditto - - - -	53 0	437 0
	Women's lying-in-ward - - - -	47 0	481 0
	Women's lying-in-ward (convalescent) - - - -	69 0	712 0
	Women's sick ward (convalescent) - - - -	58 0	527 0
2	Women's sick ward - - - -	47 0	440 0
3	Men's sick ward - - - -	53 0	495 0
1	Ditto - ditto - - - -	53 0	495 0
	Detached Buildings :		
24	Women's sick ward - - - -	41 0	568 0
26	Ditto - ditto - - - -	47 0	533 0
27	Ditto - ditto - - - -	62 0	618 0
25	Ditto - ditto - - - -	37 0	426 0
29	Men's sick ward - - - -	57 0	669 0
23	Men's sick ward (convalescent) - - - -	49 0	633 0

Thus the usual floor space, and cubical space, in the sick wards, are 53 to 69 superficial feet, and 410 to 669 feet; and in nine of 17 wards the cubical space is less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

The size and general appearance of the wards are, upon the whole, satisfactory. None are too large to be useful. Some of the wards have windows on two ends, or sides; but a majority of wards.

## Appendix.

## ISLINGTON.

majority of them have windows only on one side; yet the open yard space in front, the height of the windows, and the agreeable colouring of the walls, permit the wards to be light, airy, and cheerful.

There are three wards in a one-storied building in the yard, viz., Nos. 26, 27, and 25, which are too small, and are neither cheerful nor satisfactory. Wards, Nos. 1 and 29, appeared to me to be cold.

## Bedding and furniture.

The bedding is of flock, upon iron bedsteads with sacking; and the flock might be more systematically teased with advantage. The rugs are woollen, and of old, and not very cheerful pattern. The sheets and bed coverings are sufficient and good.

There is an air of comfort in all the wards. There are cupboards, lockers, arm-chairs with cushions, benches with backs, night-chairs, pieces of carpet, capes, feet and chest warmers, bed trays with napkins, looking glasses, prints, numerous ornaments, and artificial flowers; and an effort is made at all times to give a cheerful appearance to the wards.

There are always several pottery washhand basins in each ward, and a towel, comb and brush are supplied to each inmate. Pottery plates and mugs are used.

Several of the beds in the lying-in wards were too narrow for a woman and child. There are bed rests, but no bedsteads with racks.

## Cleanliness.

The most scrupulous cleanliness exists everywhere; and the linen is of good colour except in the receiving ward, No. 29. The labour bed was quite clean; but the mackintosh sheeting was too much worn.

## Ventilation.

Some of the wards, as No. 8, are admirably ventilated; but those, having windows on one side only, must be less so. The system adopted is that of air bricks, placed all round each ward, as in No. 8; of Arnott's ventilators, of which one, two, or three, are found in each ward; and of ventilation over the doors. The first are small, and do not seem to require a covering of perforated zinc; the second work well, and a few only are tied up; whilst the third is rendered insufficient and inefficacious by a covering of wood on each side in addition to perforated zinc, which closes in the openings.

The corridors are ventilated only by large round openings which lead from a grating on the outside; and are defended on the inside by a covering of perforated zinc.

We did not find one ward in the body of the workhouse which did not smell sweet; and the matron assured us that, late at night, they were nearly as sweet as her own bedroom. At the same time it cannot be doubted that this is effected by very careful attention to the doors and windows; and that the ventilation would not be good, if left to the ventilators alone. On the principle that ventilation should be quite independent of attention or want of attention, I cannot regard it as quite satisfactory.

The ventilation of the three small rooms, Nos. 26, 27, and 25, and particularly of the receiving ward, No. 29, is clearly defective. An order has already been given to place a louvre light in the roof, and when this has been effected it is probable that the ventilation will be much improved, but it cannot be so good with a stove as it would be with an open fireplace.

## Nursing.

The nursing is conducted entirely by pauper nurses, who receive three dresses, white aprons, and caps, extra rations, one pint of beer, and 1 s. per week. They have an unusually respectable appearance, and many of them have been so engaged for many years. The medical officer is not dissatisfied with them, and the master and matron are of opinion that, in the present workhouse, no other system would work so well. They appear to be well conducted, and to be held in esteem by the officers, but the master and matron do not doubt that in the new building it would be better to engage paid nurses.

There is a midwife, who, we were informed, is paid 7 s. 6 d. per case.

## Medical officer.

The medical officer attends at the workhouse about two hours daily. The guardians provide all drugs, and also a dispenser, both for the workhouse, and the parish. He does not desire to attend the midwifery cases, and the vaccination he refers to the district medical officers. His salary has been increased 30 l. per year within the last three months, and is now 160 l., with extras for lunacy certificates. He orders all diet, stimulants, and medical appliances with perfect freedom, and speaks very highly of the spirit and conduct of the trustees towards him, and the poor.

He is not sent for at night, more than perhaps once a week, on the average. There are about 205 cases upon his books, and of these one-fourth at least are placed there simply to obtain a better dietary.

He is not dissatisfied with his position, and emoluments, but expects a favourable change, when the new workhouse shall have opened.

## Recommendations.

As the workhouse is so soon to be pulled down, it is scarcely needful that I should offer any recommendations respecting it, and certainly no changes should be made, which would involve any considerable outlay. I, however, remark as follows:—

1. I cannot doubt that there should be paid superintendent nurses, both by day and night.

2. The medical officer's salary should be further increased, and it would be very much better, if he were to attend to the lying-in cases, and vaccinate the children, and receive extras for those duties.

3. The



3. The ventilation should be improved in the several ways, which I have pointed out, viz.:

(A.) By removing the wooden frames of the ventilators over the doors, and, in some instances, by placing ventilators over the doors which lead from other rooms, as well as over those which lead from the corridors.

(B.) Air bricks should be inserted in some of the rooms, in which there are windows on one side only.

(C.) The ventilation of the corridors should be improved, by substituting largely for finely perforated zinc, and by inserting several panes of perforated glass.

(D.) The ventilation of the three wards which I have indicated, and of the receiving ward, should receive early attention.

(E.) All ventilators should be kept open.

4. Hot water, and fixed baths, will be needful in the new building.

5. Games of draughts, dominoes, &c., might be provided with advantage.

6. A dietary for the aged and infirm should be provided.

7. Wider beds should be placed in the lying-in ward.

8. Beds with racks should be provided universally, in the new building, for the sick cases.

## No. 27.

### C H E L S E A.

#### CHELSEA.

WE visited this workhouse on the 16th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

It is situate in a healthful locality, but in close proximity to small houses and somewhat narrow streets. The surrounding neighbourhood is not densely populated.

The larger part is old, but well built, whilst a wing has been very recently erected in a very unsatisfactory manner, and of faulty construction.

There is not a detached infirmary. Fever and smallpox cases are sent to the hospitals. Very few venereal cases are admitted. The children are placed in a district school. But few imbeciles are admitted, and they are distributed through the workhouse.

There are sick and convalescent wards in which the larger proportion of sick cases are placed, but many of the aged and infirm remain in their own wards, and are placed upon the books of the medical officer for dietary or treatment.

There are not any day-rooms, and there is only one fixed bath for the use of the sick. The cold water supply is very good, but hot water must be carried up stairs. The lavatories are, for the most part, very small and confined; and the accommodation is scarcely sufficient. There is not hot water attached to them. The water closets are sufficient in number, but are very small and confined.

There are from 400 to 600 inmates of whom about 140 are upon the books of the medical officer, including about 40 who are so placed simply to obtain for them a dietary of meat and beer daily.

The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds placed in each:—

Size of rooms and number of beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
12	Men's sick ward - -	46 0	19 2	11 0	18
13	ditto - ditto - -	35 6	16 2	11 10	12
14	ditto - ditto - -	46 0	19 2	8 10	18
73 a	Women's sick ward - -	36 10	21 4	9 1	15
73	ditto - ditto - -	24 1	21 2	9 1	11
41	Women's labour ward - -	20 6	12 3	9 0	1
70 a	Women's lying in-ward - -	28 8	21 3	9 0	11
50	Women's sick ward - -	61 7	21 8	7 6	24
		+61 7	16 5	4 3	
68	Women's infirm ward - -	57 6	21 2	7 6	32
		+57 6	15 11	4 3	
		+27 10	20 0	7 6	
		+27 10	14 9	4 3	
17	Men's sick ward - -	35 2	16 2	9 3	8
100	Ditto - ditto - -	28 0	28 0	9 7	15
103	Ditto - ditto - -	28 3	23 3	10 0	13
		+28 3	21 3	1 0	
27	Men's itch ward - -	18 0	11 9	9 7	6
80	Women's itch ward - -	27 10	16 0	11 1	7
		- 5 6	7 6	7 3	

## Appedix.

## CHELSEA.

Hence, it appears that the usual width and height of the wards in the old buildings are 9 to 11½ feet and 16 to 21 feet.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed, are as follow :

Number of Wards.	Class of Inmates or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. Ft.</i>	<i>Cub. Ft.</i>
12	Men's sick ward - - - - -	49	539
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	566
14	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	433
73 a	Women's sick ward - - - - -	52	476
73	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	421
41	Women's labour ward - - - - -	251	2,260
70 a	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	55	498
50	Women's sick ward - - - - -	55	596
68	Women's infirm ward - - - - -	55	592
17	Men's sick ward - - - - -	71	657
100	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	501
103	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	551
27	Men's itch ward - - - - -	35	338
80	Women's itch ward - - - - -	58	662

## General character of wards.

Hence, the usual floor and cubical space is 48 to 71 superficial feet, and 421 to 657 cubic feet. The men's infirm ward offers less than 400 cubic feet, and 5 wards offer less than the quantity required by the Poor Law Board.

The rooms are for the most part light, airy, and cheerful. There are windows on both sides in nearly all the wards. The width and height are, for the most part, sufficient, but some of them are low. There are none too large to be useful, although one is a large room, and none too small. The itch wards in the basement are dark and cheerless, and unfit for use; and the rooms in the new building are very wide, so that a middle row of beds has to be placed in them.

There are not any corridors in the old building, and those in the new building are narrow, and exceedingly repulsive in appearance. The staircases in the old building are fairly wide, and in many respects the construction of the old is to be preferred to that of the new building.

Some of the windows in the new building have the panes frosted and the light and the cheerfulness of the wards are thereby lessened.

## Bedding and furniture.

The bedding is of flock, upon iron bedsteads, but 200 horse-hair mattresses and many horse-hair pillows have been ordered, and will soon be in use.

The rugs are of cotton, but look neat and clean, and the bed coverings are good and sufficient.

There are some dressers, but scarcely any lockers. Short benches and chairs are placed between the beds, and there are benches with backs. Prints are placed upon the walls, and illustrated periodicals and games are supplied. There are 20 bed racks, feet and chest warmers, Mackintosh beds, pillows and sheeting, and bed pans. Eight round towels, one wash-hand basin, one comb and brush, are supplied to a ward of 19 persons, many of whom are able to wash at a lavatory. The lavatories are small, and ill fitted up, and there is usually one metal basin only, so that some of the inmates wash in buckets. There are bells in all the rooms. A library is also in course of formation.

A recommendation for lockers, combs and brushes, and a great variety of other articles, has just been made by the medical officer, and will, we believe, be accepted by the guardians. At present there is a deficiency in furniture and lavatory accommodation.

## Cleanliness.

We found the bedding, labour bed, wards, and furniture, clean, but the small size of the lavatories and water closets renders it difficult to keep all the utensils in their proper place and in good condition.

## Ventilation.

The ventilation is dependent mainly upon the windows, the upper sash of which is made to fall forward into a rack, and to admit air at the top chiefly, and a similar arrangement of the lower sash is in process of construction.

There are Arnott's ventilators in several of the rooms, but they are out of order. Also ventilators leading upwards from the side walls; and others in the ceiling, which communicate with air bricks in the external walls. The latter also exist in the upper story, but whether there is an external opening into the roof we could not learn.

The matron did not find any ward more disagreeable at night than an ordinary bed room, except an inner ward, No. 73 A., but the medical officer had observed that Nos. 68 and



and 14 were very offensive, when he had entered them in the early morning to see patients there.

The means for ventilation, apart from the windows, are quite inadequate, and the windows are almost universally closed at night; and hence I cannot doubt that the ventilation is defective, and requires improvement.

The small lavatories, and washing up places, and water closets, are very ill ventilated by day and night, and thus tend to vitiate the air in the bed rooms. There are openings in the partition walls, and in the walls separating the wards from the staircases, in which gas burners are placed; and which, with the exception of a slit at the top, are closed in by glass. These might readily be made most valuable ventilators to the different wards.

There are two paid nurses, one for the inmates of each sex, receiving 25 *l.* per year, with rations, &c. There are also the usual number of pauper nurses, and helpers in each ward. Nursing.

The medical officer has occupied his present post for about 10 years, and has also a small district in the parish. About two hours daily are devoted to the duties in the workhouse, and 1½ hour daily to those of the district. He attends all cases of midwifery, but does not vaccinate the children in the workhouse. His salary for the workhouse is 100 *l.*, with about 70 *l.* for extras in midwifery, and lunacy certificates, whilst that for his district is 50 *l.*, with about 20 *l.* in extras for midwifery and vaccinations. Medical officer.

He attends the workhouse in the night, about once a week, on the average of the year.

He is of opinion that the guardians should find the drugs, and a dispenser, both for the workhouse and the parish; and that his salary for the workhouse should be increased to 150 *l.* yearly with extras.

There should be two additional paid nurses, besides a paid nurse for the lying-in ward, and two paid night nurses. He considers that with the present arrangements for ventilation, 500 cubic feet of air is not sufficient space for each person.

The following are the recommendations, which I offer, in reference to this workhouse:— Recommendations.

1. I question if the new building can be rendered satisfactory, but, if it be possible, the corridors should be made wider, and some of the rooms made larger, by taking down the partition walls, and the whole should be rendered lighter and more cheerful.

2. The old building may, I think, be rendered satisfactory.

3. The ventilation should be universally improved, and made dependent upon ventilators only.

A. Perforated glass should be placed in the windows of the more lofty rooms.

B. In the low rooms air bricks should be inserted in sufficient numbers at the top of the walls.

C. The lanterns should have perforated glass in their upper half.

D. Arnott's, and all other ventilators should be kept open and in order.

E. The ventilation of the lavatories and water-closets, and staircases, should be made as good as possible.

4. The furniture, combs, brushes, towels, wash-hand basins, lavatories, baths, &c., should be increased. Hot water should be supplied to the upper rooms.

The lavatory accommodation should be increased.

5. The number of paid nurses should be increased, as recommended by the medical officer.

6. The salary of the medical officer should be increased.

7. The guardians should find all drugs and a dispenser.

8. The use of the wards in the basement should be discontinued for the treatment of the sick.

9. It is very desirable to provide day rooms.

10. The following is the number of beds to be allowed in each ward:

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
12	Men's sick ward - - -	14 to 16	68	Women's infirm ward - - -	28 to 30
13	Ditto - ditto - - -	10			
14	Ditto - ditto - - -	14 to 16	17	Men's sick ward - - -	8
			100	Ditto - ditto - - -	10 or 13
73 a	Women's sick ward - - -	12	103	Ditto - ditto - - -	9 or 10
73	Ditto - ditto - - -	8			
41	Women's labour ward - - -	—	27	Men's itch ward - - -	—
70 a	Women's lying-in ward - - -	8			
50	Women's sick ward - - -	20	80	Women's itch ward - - -	—

## Appendix.

## ST. GEORGE'S HANOVER SQUARE, WORKHOUSE AT BROMPTON.

ST. GEORGE'S  
HANOVER SQUARE,  
WORKHOUSE AT  
BROMPTON.

WE visited this workhouse on the 16th May 1866, and were accompanied by the Master and Matron.

It is situate in a very salubrious locality, and is a handsome building, occupying a considerable space of ground. There are large schools in a separate building, and two very large sick wards in them are appropriated to sick children. The sick adults occupy the body of the workhouse, and consist of women only. They are, moreover, almost exclusively the aged and infirm.

Lavatories, water-closets, movable baths, and hot and cold water, are met with over the whole building.

The total number in the workhouse is 320; and of these, from 80 to 90 are placed upon the books of the medical officer, either for medicines, or extra diet.

Size of rooms and  
number of beds.

The following are the dimensions of the various sick rooms, with the number of beds allotted to each room :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	No. of Beds.
		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
24	Women's sick ward - - - {	22 5	22 4	12 4	7
		— 5 0	4 0	12 4	
25	Ditto - ditto - - - {	30 2	22 9	13 0	9
15	Ditto - ditto - - - {	33 9	22 6	11 5	13
16	Ditto - ditto - - - {	22 6	18 9	11 5	5
		—11 6	3 9	7 6	
17	Ditto - ditto - - - {	19 0	18 8	11 5	6
18	Ditto - ditto - - - {	22 4	22 4	11 5	6
		— 5 0	4 0	11 5	
19	Ditto - ditto - - - {	30 0	22 7	11 5	8
13	Ditto - ditto - - - {	32 0	13 9	11 3	7
		+15 0	2 1	11 3	

Hence the usual height and width of the rooms are  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to 13 feet, and about 22 feet.

The floor space and cubical space, allowed to each bed, are as follow :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cubic feet.</i>
24	Women's sick ward - - - - -	69	847
25	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	76	991
15	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	58	667
16	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	76	899
17	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	59	675
18	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	80	911
19	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	85	967
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	67	757

Hence the usual Floor space and cubical space are 58 to 85 superficial feet, and 667 to 291 cubic feet, and none have less cubical space than that required by the Poor Law Board.

General character of  
wards.

The rooms are, without exception, light, airy, and cheerful. There are windows on two sides in nearly all the rooms. The size is not too great to be useful, except in the children's sick rooms, and it is never too small. They are, indeed, in size and general appearance all that could be desired.

Bedding and furni-  
ture.

The bedding, bedsteads, rugs, and other bed coverings are very good. The beds are of flock, and many mattresses are also provided. There are dressers, cupboards, arm chairs, cushions, foot boxes, carpets, handsome oil cloth table covers, artificial and natural flowers, prints, illustrated books, looking-glasses, warmers, alarm bells, crockery plates and mugs, and all the required articles in sufficient abundance; and an air of great comfort and even of luxury, pervades all the wards.

Cleanliness



Cleanliness is universal.

The arrangements for ventilation are abundant; and, with one qualification, good. There are large openings in the ceilings, covered in by a wooden slab, which can be let down so as to allow air to pass around it. Also ventilators in the side walls, near to the ceiling, with a large grating on the outside, and the shutter on the inside, which can be depressed to an angle of about 45°. The windows are divided into large panes, and each one is set in a sash which may be opened.

The defect in this arrangement is the absence of perforated zinc on the outside, by which the entering current would be divided, and be unfelt by the inmates. From the absence of this, every side ventilator and a large proportion of the ceiling ventilators were closed. Hence an excellent intention had defeated itself.

The loftiness of the rooms, and the large cubic space allotted to each inmate, prevented any distinct perception of closeness, but there was not the freshness of the air which would have existed had there been a more constant and uniform communication with the outer air. Moreover, in the rooms, in which a wooden lobby had been placed (as No. 16), it was closed in at the top, and thus the advantage of the corridor, as a ventilator, was almost cut off.

A paid nurse has just been appointed, but has not yet entered upon her duties. There is an assistant matron, who hitherto has superintended the nursing of the sick, and who administers both the stimulants and the medicine.

There are also a day nurse, a helper, and a night nurse to each ward, who receive 6*d.* per week, besides one pint of beer daily, and extra food.

The master and matron think highly of their pauper nurses, many of whom have remained with them for years, and their conduct is generally very good. They consider that the recently appointed paid nurse will meet all the requirements of the workhouse, and that a paid night nurse is not necessary.

We did not see the medical officer, and did not therefore ascertain his views, but we learnt that he receives 100*l.* per year, finds all drugs, except cod-liver oil and quinine, and that his assistant, sons, and himself, devote about two hours daily to the duties of the office.

There is an *ad libitum* diet in use here, from which the inmates may choose various articles, as tripe, fish, broth, beef-tea, eggs, milk, arrow-root, sago, roast meat, &c., daily. It occasions much trouble, but is doubtless very agreeable and useful to the inmates, and prevents waste from left and disliked food.

There are scarcely any recommendations to be made in reference to this well-built, well-arranged, and well-managed workhouse; but I offer the following:—

1. The side ventilators should be kept open at all times, and if the current of air should be too strong, the wooden shutters should be taken away, and the openings covered with perforated zinc. It is useless to have so good a system of ventilation devised and constructed, and then to close the ventilators.

The ventilators in the ceilings should be let down half-an-inch, or an inch.

The wooden lobbies should be partially opened at the top.

2. The guardians should provide all drugs, and further increase the salary of the medical officer.

3. A paid night nurse should be appointed.

4. The staircases, which are very cold, and supply cold air to the rooms, should be heated.

5. The size of the children's sick ward is much too great.

6. It is desirable, in purchasing new bedsteads, to have them with racks.

No. 29.

F U L H A M.

Appendix.

ST. GEORGE'S,  
HANCYER SQUARE,  
WORKHOUSE AT  
BROMPTON.

Cleanliness.  
Ventilation.

Nursing.

Medical officer.

Recommendations.

FULHAM.

WE visited this workhouse on the 17th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

The workhouse is situate in a healthy locality, and upon a large plot of well-drained land.

In addition to the body of the workhouse, there is a detached infirmary, detached infectious

## Appendix.

## FULHAM.

tious wards, and detached imbecile wards, all of which, if well-constructed and arranged, might have constituted an admirable workhouse.

The sick amongst the aged and infirm, and the lying-in cases, are placed in the body of the workhouse, whilst the ordinary sick are placed in 55 beds in the infirmary. Two case of small-pox are now in a wooden building, which has hitherto been used as the infectious wards. The male imbeciles have separate wards in the infirmary, whilst the female venereal cases, and the female imbeciles are placed in a building nearer to the body of the workhouse. The new fever, itch, and other infectious wards, have not yet been opened, but will be used within a few days. The infirmary and new infectious wards are at a considerable distance from the main building.

There are one or two day rooms. There are no fixed baths, except for the imbeciles. The lavatories and water-closets are very small and close, and in the main body of the building are placed within the wards, so that to be ventilated properly, they must be ventilated from the wards.

The cold-water supply is good, but there is not any hot-water supply above the ground floor.

Fever and small-pox cases are almost invariably sent to the hospitals, but venereal cases are received. Noisy and dangerous lunatics are sent away. The children are placed in the main building.

There are now 312 inmates, of whom about 12 are able-bodied, and from 140 to 150 are upon the medical officer's books. The imbeciles are not, as a class, regarded as sick.

Size of rooms and  
number of beds.

The following are the measurements of the several rooms, with the number of beds contained in each ward:—

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in</i>	
213	Men's sick ward - -	11 9	10 6	11 6	1
312	Ditto ditto - - -	28 0	16 8	11 0	8
209	Ditto ditto - - -	24 0	16 8	11 0	8
224	Women's sick ward - -	27 9	16 8	11 2	9
223	Ditto - ditto - -	24 3	16 8	11 1	8
220	Ditto - ditto - -	27 9	16 8	11 0	10
	New Infection Wards (not yet occupied) :				
1	Men's ward - - -	16 0	12 0	10 10	3
2	Ditto - - -	16 0	12 0	9 0	3
		+ 14 0	12 0	1 10	
3	Ditto - - -	16 0	16 10	9 0	4
		+ 14 0	16 10	1 10	
		+ 4 9	5 3	10 10	
		+ 4 0	2 6	9 0	
	Women's wards (similar to mens).	- -	- -	- -	10
	Women's foul ward - -	12 2	16 0	10 11	6
	Ditto - ditto - -	16 1	16 0	9 0	2
		+ 16 1	13 6	1 10	
		+ 10 0	3 6	10 10	
	Main Building :				
149	Women's sick and infirm ward.	42 2 + 22 0 + 6 3	16 7 6 3 3 0	11 10 11 10 11 10	15
151	Ditto - ditto - -	47 5	16 6	11 9	15
144	Women's lying-in ward -	20 9 + 5 3 + 3 6	14 4 2 7 1 9	11 1 11 1 11 1	5
145	Women's labour ward -	15 6	6 1	11 1	1
121	Women's infirm ward -	34 6 + 7 10	16 5 5 0	11 6 11 6	12
135	Men's infirm ward - -	42 4 + 22 0 + 6 3	16 6 6 4 3 0	11 9 11 9 11 9	16

Hence it appears that the usual height and width of the rooms in the infirmary are 11 feet, and 16½ feet; and in the body of the workhouse 11½ feet, and 16½ feet, and are much too narrow.

The



The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed, in the different wards, are as follow :—

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FULHAM.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
	<b>Infirmary :</b>	<i>Sup. Ft.</i>	<i>Cub. Ft.</i>
213	Men's sick ward - - - - -	123	1,419
212	Ditto ditto - - - - -	58	641
209	Ditto ditto - - - - -	50	550
224	Women's sick ward - - - - -	51	574
223	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	560
220	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	509
	<b>New Infection Wards :</b>		
1	Men's ward - - - - -	64	693
2	Ditto - - - - -	64	679
3	Ditto - - - - -	58	624
	Women's wards (similar to men's) - - - - -	62	661
	Women's foul ward - - - - -	32	354
	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	37	389
	<b>Main Building :</b>		
149	Women's sick and infirm ward - - - - -	54	645
151	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	613
144	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	55	615
145	Women's labour „ - - - - -	94	1,045
121	Women's infirm „ - - - - -	50	580
135	Men's infirm ward - - - - -	51	601

The usual floor space and cubical space are thus 50 to 64 superficial feet, and 550 to 693 cubic feet. With the exception of two foul wards, which offer less than 400 cubic feet, none have less than the quantity required by the Poor Law Board.

The size and general character of the rooms in the infirmary are not unsatisfactory, except for their narrowness. They have windows on two or three sides, and are light and airy. General character of wards.

The wards in the new building, for infectious cases, are unsatisfactory. Instead of erecting this building in such a manner that there might be light and air on all sides of it, it has been built to the very edge of the land, simply, as we were informed, to take advantage of an existing boundary wall. Hence there is light on one side only ; and it would, no doubt, be inconvenient to place windows to overlook the road which runs along the other side. Moreover, for infectious wards the rooms should have been large and lofty ; but these are very small ; and, in order to give height, it has been needful to build into the roof. Moreover, the upper landing on each side is made to project into the room, and thus to take up a certain amount of floor space, and to make the form of the room irregular. The workmanship and materials appear to have been very inferior. The yards are exceedingly small, and quite unfit for exercise, whilst there is a large plot of garden land immediately in front which might have enlarged them.

I do not doubt that a very unwise economy has been exercised in this case, and that the building must ere long be taken down and reconstructed.

The wards in the central part of the workhouse have windows only on one side. There is a blank wall on the opposite side which separates the ward from the corridor, and as no window exists in it the corridor is dark and the ward much deteriorated in airiness, light, and cheerfulness.

Those at the ends of the main building, viz., Nos. 135 and 149, have windows at the end, as well as on the side, and are much more cheerful.

All the wards are much too narrow.

The wards occupied by the female venereal cases, and the female idiots in like manner have windows on one side only, and are not cheerful.

Hence many and serious defects exist in the construction of this workhouse.

The beds are of flock upon iron bedsteads. The flock is very lumpy, and no efficient system of teasing it is adopted. The rugs and bed coverings are fairly good and sufficient. Bedding and furniture.

There is great deficiency in the furniture and comforts of the room.

Strictly speaking, there are no lavatories, but only small sinks fitted for the washing of the utensils. In the men's infirmary there was only an old tin vessel, in which all the inmates of two wards were washed. A pottery basin has recently been provided for the medical officer ; but it was not used by the inmates. We found one pottery wash-hand basin in use in the women's wards. Four round towels were supplied weekly for two men's wards ; and the women had three round towels besides small ones in a ward. Neither comb nor brush was in the hands of the attendants of the men's wards ; and only one comb, and no brush, was supplied by the guardians to the women's ward, No 224. There

## Appendix.

## FULHAM.

was some difficulty in arriving at the truth on these matters; but it did not appear that the state of things was fully known to the master and matron; and the only excuse offered was that they had not been asked for the deficient articles.

The attendant on the men's side stated that he had only one sheet fortnightly; but it appeared from the matron's statement that at least one sheet weekly was supplied.

There were a few, but very few books; and it was stated that illustrated periodicals were supplied by Mrs. Tait's committee, but none had been received in the men's wards, and only a few old numbers of one periodical could be found in the women's wards.

The walls are rough and undrawn, and washed white. There are no foot warmers and only one chest warmer. No portable baths were found in the infirmary, and only two existed in the whole establishment. There are scarcely any chairs in the infirmary, and there are not any lockers. No cushions are found upon the benches. Pottery plates are used in the infirmary. Clocks are placed in most of the rooms.

The general appearance of the rooms is that of rigid economy and not of comfort.

The bed in the labour ward was quite unfit for the purpose.

## Cleanliness.

We did not observe any marked evidence of want of cleanliness. The linen was not clean in a few instances, but usually it was fairly clean. The mackintosh on the labour-bed was not in a satisfactory state.

## Ventilation.

The ventilation throughout all the workhouse is very deficient. There are ventilators in the ceiling which communicate with the outer air by air-bricks; and there is an opening in the partition or corridor walls; but all have wooden shutters, which are usually kept shut. There are also holes made in transverse beams in the ceiling, as if for ventilation; but we were informed that they had no direct communication with the outer air.

There are round iron ventilators placed in the walls of the new building, and a chink is left in the boarding of the ceiling in the upper rooms of that building, with a view to ventilation. The landings are closed in.

The ventilation of the sinks and water-closets is very insufficient. The sink in the day rooms of the lying-in ward was untrapped, and emitted a dangerous drain smell; and one of the sinks in the women's ward was closed, and did not allow the waste water to pass off.

The ventilation of the lying-in ward, and the labour room, is very insufficient; and that of the new fever building will be the same.

Many of the rooms were close, even at our visit; and we were informed that they were much more offensive during the night.

## Nursing

The nursing arrangements are most meagre and deficient. A paid nurse has been appointed to have charge of all the sick in the workhouse, but she has not yet entered upon her duties. It will, however, be quite impossible that she can go from one detached building to another; and, indeed, she must practically be restricted to the infirmary. There are two paid attendants for the imbeciles.

There is only one pauper nurse for the two men's wards in the infirmary, and he is a man; and there are other wards without an appointed helper. Night nurses are not specially appointed, except for special cases. Hence I have not seen any workhouse in which so little nursing is provided. These nurses almost universally are unable to read, and they give the medicines by recollection only, but the bottles were labelled. They have no monetary allowance, or distinctive dress, and have only extra food. A few cases had occurred in which the nurses were believed to have drank the beer and gin of the inmates.

The matron seldom visited the men's infirmary wards.

## Medical officer.

The medical officer attends during about two hours, and his dispenser about one hour daily. The guardians provide all the drugs and pay him 50*l.* per year as salary, with about 24*l.* yearly for extras. He is of opinion that his salary should be at least 100*l.* per year.

He is not satisfied with the present system of nursing. Another paid nurse should be provided for the body of the workhouse, including the lying-in ward. A paid night nurse is not at present necessary; but an unpaid night nurse should be appointed for the infirmary.

About 30 of his 140 sick cases are placed upon his books for dietary only, and he approves the plan of providing a special dietary for the aged and infirm.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse:

1. Everything should be carried out on a more liberal scale, and with less evidence of close economy.

2. A much better system of supervision should be adopted than at present. It should not be regarded as a sufficient answer by the officers, that they had not been told of any wants or defects, or that certain things would have been supplied had they been asked for; but they should be expected to visit every part of the workhouse daily, and know what exists, and what is deficient; and held responsible for the due supply of all articles, or for making known the defect to the guardians.



It is probable that a more efficient visitation by the visiting committee of the guardians is necessary.

Appendix.

FULHAM.

3. Efforts should be made to render the wards more comfortable. The walls should be tinted; lockers, mantel-shelves, arm-chairs, benches with backs and cushions, tables, looking-glasses, prints, illustrated periodicals, games, entertaining books; feet and chest warmers, capes, night-gowns, bed-trays, and a little matting or carpeting, should be placed in every sick ward. Pottery wash-hand basins should be supplied in much greater numbers. Soap should be allowed to each inmate weekly; and a separate towel, comb, and brush should be kept for each sick person.

4. More fixed and portable baths, with hot and cold water, on every floor, should be provided.

5. Proper lavatories should be built, and the sinks and water-closets removed from the bedrooms.

6. The ventilation should be universally improved. Windows with a central pin, and plugged open to the extent of one inch, should be placed in all the corridor walls of the body of the workhouse. The shutters should be taken away from the ventilators, and the space filled in with perforated zinc. Perforated glass should be placed in all the sinks, water-closets, and corridors, and in the rooms which are lofty. Air-bricks are needed in many of the wards; and others, with openings in the landings, are required in the new buildings.

7. The system of nursing should be greatly improved and extended; at least another paid day nurse should be appointed for the main building, and one or two paid night nurses is required.

No pauper nurse should be appointed who cannot read. Women nurses should be appointed in the men's wards; and one unpaid nurse and helper should be appointed to each ward. A distinctive dress, and some further remuneration, should be given, and all the nurses required to be clean and tidy.

Having three or four separate buildings, it will be very difficult to arrange the duties of the paid nurses conveniently. If the infectious wards shall receive many inmates, there must be a separate paid nurse for them; but they are too small to occupy the time of a paid nurse, and there is no proper accommodation for her.

8. The salary of the medical officer should be increased.

9. A dietary of meat and beer should be provided for the aged and infirm.

10. All the sinks and traps should be kept in perfect order.

11. A proper bed and windows should be placed in the labour ward, and rocking chairs and proper furniture and comforts supplied to the day-rooms.

12. The wire guards should be removed from the windows, if possible.

13. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in the different wards:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated,	No. of Beds.
	Infirmary:			Women's wards (similar to men's.)	
213	Men's sick ward - - -	1 or 2		Women's foul ward - - -	3
212	Ditto - ditto - - -	8		Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 4
209	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7			
224	Women's sick ward - - -	8		Main Buildings:	
223	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7		Women's sick and infirm ward	14 or 15
220	Ditto - ditto - - -	8	149	Ditto - ditto - - -	14 or 15
	New Infection Wards:		151		
1	Men's ward - - -	2 or 3	144	Women's lying-in ward - - -	3 or 4
2	Ditto - - -	2 or 3	145	Women's labour ward - - -	—
3	Ditto - - -	3 or 4	121	Women's infirm ward - - -	10 or 11
			135	Men's infirm ward - - -	14 or 15

## Appendix.

## SAINT GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST.

ST. GEORGE IN-  
THE-EAST.

WE visited this workhouse on the 18th May 1866, and were accompanied by the matron, medical officer, and several guardians.

It is situated in a flat district near to the Thames, and in the vicinity of works which produce offensive odours. It is surrounded by small dwellings and narrow populous streets, and the air of the neighbourhood has a close and disagreeable character.

There is not a detached infirmary, but the sick are placed in various wards. The building consists of four portions, viz., a very old part, in which there are at present two wards, containing sick cases; a comparatively new part, in which are the men's sick wards proper; a detached and comparatively new building, placed very improperly in the middle of the yard, containing the female venereal wards, the imbeciles, and the sick children; and a range of buildings, newer than the oldest, called the Stone Buildings, in which the aged and infirm, with the sick, and the itch and offensive cases, are placed.

Cases of fever and small-pox, and noisy and dangerous lunatics, are sent to hospitals and asylums. The children above two years of age are sent to the district school; and only the younger ones, and such as are ill, or are *in transitu* to the schools, are retained in the workhouse. Venereal cases are admitted, and placed in separate wards. The imbeciles are all placed in separate wards, and are not, as a class, placed upon the medical officer's books.

There are not any day-rooms for the use of the sick. There are no lavatories, baths, or water-closets, in the oldest building; but they exist in the other parts of the workhouse.

Hot water is furnished only in the basement of the oldest building, but it is supplied to the upper rooms elsewhere. The cold water supply is abundant. Gas is used. A dietary for the aged and infirm, containing meat four days weekly, has very recently been provided at this workhouse, and has lessened the necessity for placing many upon the books of the medical officer.

There are now 770 inmates; of whom 30 are able-bodied (all women), 36 imbeciles, and 225 sick.

The following are the dimensions of the various wards, and the number of beds contained in each room:—

Size of rooms and  
number of beds

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Old Building:	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
40	Men's sick ward - -	47 3	18 8	9 6	24
45	Ditto - ditto - -	48 6	17 4	11 3	19
	Principal Building:				
47	Men's sick ward - -	46 4	32 0	13 0	28
48	Ditto - ditto - -	46 4	32 0	13 0	32
	Detached Shed:				
1	Women's venereal ward -	17 9	12 0	9 9	6
2	Ditto - ditto - -	17 9	12 0	9 9	6
	Imbecile Infirmary:				
17	Children's ward - -	17 5	19 3	11 9	{ 2 double. 4 single.
19	Ditto - ditto - -	{ 18 4 — 9 0	{ 19 3 3 0	{ 13 0 7 0	{ 9
20	Women's sick ward - -	23 0	19 2	13 0	11
21	Ditto, and children - - (containing 10 adults and 10 children)	23 0	19 2	13 0	10
	Front, or Stone Building:				
1	Women's sick ward - -	36 0	21 0	11 10	15
4	Ditto - ditto - -	43 0	21 0	11 10	16
3	Ditto - ditto - -	46 6	20 10	11 10	20
8	Ditto - ditto - -	36 0	20 10	11 10	{ 1 double. 15 single.
7	Ditto - ditto - -	46 6	20 10	11 10	20
5	Ditto - ditto - -	46 6	20 10	11 10	19
6	Ditto - ditto - -	42 6	21 0	11 10	17
12	Ditto - ditto - -	35 9	20 9	13 9	16
11	Ditto - ditto - -	46 6	21 0	13 9	22
10	Ditto - ditto - -	42 6	21 0	13 9	18
9	Women's convalescent ward	27 10	20 10	13 9	{ 2 double. 10 single.
	Ditto, lying-in ward -	18 8	20 10	13 9	6

Hence



Hence there is much difference in the several parts of the workhouse, and the usual height and width in the four parts are 9½ to 11 and 18 feet in old building; 13 feet and 32 feet in new building; 13 feet and 19 feet in imbecile building; and 12 to 14 feet and 21 feet in the stone building.

The floor space and cubical space allowed to each bed are as follow :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
	Old Building :	<i>Sup. Feet.</i>	<i>Cub. Feet.</i>
40	Men's sick ward - - - - -	37	349
45	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	498
	Principal Building :		
47	Men's sick ward - - - - -	53	688
48	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	602
	Detached Shed :		
1	Women's venereal ward - - - - -	35	346
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	35	346
	Imbecile Infirmary :		
17	Children's ward - - - - -	42	492
19	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	36	489
20	Women's sick ward - - - - -	40	521
21	Ditto, and children - - - - - (containing 10 adults and 10 children)	44	573
	Front, or Stone Building :		
1	Women's sick ward - - - - -	50	596
4	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	56	668
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	573
8	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	522
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	573
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	603
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	621
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	638
11	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	610
10	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	49	682
9	Women's convalescent ward - - - - -	48	664
	Ditto lying-in ward - - - - -	65	891

Hence the floor space and cubical space vary from 35 superficial feet and 346 cubic feet, to 56 superficial feet and 891 cubic feet in the several parts of the workhouse. Three of the wards offer less than 350 cubic feet, and four, occupied by adults, less than 500 cubic feet.

The size and appearance of the rooms differ extremely in the several buildings before mentioned.

In the old building the rooms are low, with windows on one side only, and are dark and not cheerful. In the newer building they are very large, airy, light and cheerful, and have windows on three sides, and are all that could be desired.

The female venereal wards are on the ground floor, in a lean-to, made of wood, which formerly was an oakum shed. They are very small, cheerless, and unfit for use.

The nursery for sick children is much too small, and has windows on one side only. The imbeciles are to be removed from a part of this range of building, and the ward will then be given up to the children, and women with children; but they are not now so light, airy, and cheerful as they should be.

The wards in the "stone building" are placed side by side, and hence have windows on one side, and a partition wall on the other. There are small round windows in the partition walls, but the amount of light admitted by them is small, and the wards are not so light and cheerful as they might be. They are, however, large, and otherwise excellent wards.

The staircases in all the buildings are wide, and those in the proper sick wards are exceedingly good.

With the exception of the venereal wards, none are too small to be really useful; and the very large wards in the new building are rendered perfectly useful by a dwarf partition, which allows two rows of beds to be placed in the middle of the rooms, each with the bed heads to the partition. The wards in the stone building are in size exceedingly good.

The beds are of flock, placed upon iron bedsteads, with sacking, and the flock is not so well teased as it should be. There are a few hair beds, and iron bedsteads with laths. The

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General character of wards.

Bedding and furniture.

## Appendix.

ST. GEORGE-IN-  
THE-EAST.

linen and bed coverings are sufficient; but in character and appearance they differ much in the different parts of the workhouse, and are the least agreeable in the oldest buildings, where the less cleanly cases are kept.

There are several wash-hand basins and towels in each ward, but the towels in the oldest and some other parts are exceedingly small and poor, and quite insufficient in number. Two or more combs, but no brushes, are supplied to a ward. Soap is not given separately to each person.

In the oldest part there is a marked deficiency of furniture and comforts; but in the newer parts there are dressers, small lockers, shelves, arm-chairs, and benches with backs and cushions. In the oldest part the night-chairs are deficient in number; and, as there are no water-closets, this must be an inconvenience. Moreover, the night-chairs are not emptied until the morning. In the newer parts the number of seats in the water-closets are too few for the large number of inmates.

There are also window curtains, nightgowns, capes, pulleys, and reading-desks, and warmers, but there are not any looking-glasses. Some prints exist, and illustrated periodicals were said to be in the workhouse, but we did not see them. A library also exists; but the circulation of books is imperfectly effected. Two clocks were placed in the rooms.

## Cleanliness.

The workhouse and linen were, in general, very clean. The linen in the oldest building was of very bad colour, and looked dirty; and some of the water-closets and sinks were offensive.

## Ventilation.

The ventilation in the newer building, with the very large wards, was all that could be desired. That of the female venereal ward, the sick nursery, and the oldest wards, was very deficient; and the ventilation of all the other wards needs improvement.

The windows over the doors, which were intended to act as ventilators, were usually shut. The louvre lights in some of the upper rooms are very good; but the opening is too often closed. The openings in the partition walls are insufficient for light and ventilation. Many of the ventilators leading directly to the outer air are covered by shutters, and are thereby usually closed.

The ventilation of the corridors is capable of improvement; and that of the sinks and water-closets is very deficient.

## Nursing.

The nursing arrangements are not satisfactory, since there is not a paid nurse for the sick or lying-in wards, either by day or night. There is only one paid nurse in the workhouse, and she takes charge of the female imbeciles. Hence the nursing is altogether by paupers, of whom there is one and a helper to each ward; and a night nurse to each landing with four wards, but only the day nurse receives 1s. per week. The nurses in the oldest building are men.

The master and medical officer concur in their want of confidence in pauper nurses, and the desirability of appointing paid nurses; and from the arrangement of the buildings the following staff is considered necessary: viz., two nurses for the females, one for the sick children and lying-in ward, one for the male imbeciles, and two paid night nurses.

## Medical officer.

The medical officer has charge both of the workhouse and a district. He devotes five hours daily to the former; and visits the sick in the night, perhaps once in the fortnight, on the average. The duties of his district require about three hours' work daily. He has 255 persons upon his list in the workhouse. Thrice a week he sees each of them; and on the other days visits two sick wards, viz., 47 and 4, and attends to special cases. He sees about 20 patients daily at their homes, and about 15 persons at the dispensary.

The guardians provide drugs for the workhouse; but only cod-liver oil and quinine for the district; and the latter has only just come into operation.

His salary for the workhouse is only 45*l.*; and for his district 35*l.*; whilst the extras for midwifery, vaccination, and lunacy certificates amount to about 120*l.*, divided as proportions between the workhouse and the district. He attends personally to all cases of midwifery.

He is now seeking to have the salary for the workhouse increased to 100*l.*;\* and he is of opinion that it ought to be 250*l.*

Whatever diet and stimulants he orders are supplied; and there is a sufficient quantity of medical appliances.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse:—

1. The use of the female venereal ward should be immediately discontinued.
2. The oldest part of the workhouse should be taken down and rebuilt. If this should be delayed, some steps should be taken to provide lavatories, water-closets, and baths.
3. The imbecile wards have been already condemned, and a new building is about to be erected
4. Attention should be given to the water-closets, so as to increase the number of seats if possible; and to greatly increase the cleanliness and ventilation by admitting air from without through the door and the enclosing boards and windows.
5. Baths, with hot and cold water, should be fixed in various parts of the buildings.
6. A proper

\* This has been effected since our visit.



6. A proper towel, comb and brush, and piece of soap, should be allowed to each sick inmate.

7. Illustrated periodicals should be properly circulated through the ward daily; and games should be provided. More prints are desirable.

8. Paid nurses should be appointed, as suggested by the medical officer.

9. The salary of the medical officer should be increased; and if the guardians were to find the drugs for the districts, and a dispenser for them and the workhouse, it would be much better than the present arrangement.

10. The ventilation should be improved in the various wards, in the way which I pointed out to the guardians.

A. Windows with central pins, and plugged open; or large openings, without sashes, should be placed in all the partition walls throughout the "stone building."

B. Windows should be placed in all outer blank walls, as in the range of building for the nursery, &c.

C. Louvre lights should be placed in all the rooms in the roof, where they do not exist; and where they are found, the perforated zinc shutter should never be shut.

D. The ventilators, of whatever kind, and including those over the doors, should be kept open, and plugged, or fixed open.

E. Perforated glass should be inserted in many of the windows; and in the low rooms air bricks should be placed round them at the highest part of the wall. Certain panes should be taken out of the enclosure of the sinks and water-closets.

F. The boarding from the enclosed lobbies in the sick nursery and elsewhere should be removed.

11. Bells should be placed in all the wards; and the furniture in some of the wards increased. Bedsteads with racks should be provided, as far as possible; and bed-rests should now be purchased.

12. Many of the rooms are much too full at certain periods, as for example the sick nursery, and the room with mothers and children.

13. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
	Old Building:		20	Women's sick ward - - -	7 or 8
40	Men's sick ward - - -	14 or 16	21	Ditto and children - - -	—
45	Ditto - ditto - - -	14 or 16		(containing 10 adults and 10 children.)	
	Principal Building:			Front, or Stone Building:	
47	Men's sick ward - - -	28	1	Women's sick ward - - -	12
48	Ditto - ditto - - -	28	4	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
	Detached Shed:		3	Ditto - ditto - - -	16
			8	Ditto - ditto - - -	12
1	Women's venereal ward - - -	3	7	Ditto - ditto - - -	16
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	5	Ditto - ditto - - -	16
			6	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
	Imbecile Infirmary:		12	Ditto - ditto - - -	12
			11	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
			10	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
17	Children's ward - - -	—	9	Women's convalescent wards -	8 or 10
19	Ditto - ditto - - -	—		Ditto lying-in ward - - -	5 or 6

Appendix.

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## No. 31.

## ROTHERHITHE.

Appendix.  
ROTHERHITHE.

WE visited the Rotherhithe workhouse on the 18th May and 1st June 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer, chaplain, and nurses. The master was too unwell to attend us.

This is an old workhouse, with a new infirmary, built on a large plot of open land, nearly upon the level of the Thames.

The buildings consist practically of four parts:—1st. The old and main part, which occupies the front, and should give place to a new building. 2nd. A detached Board-room, also placed in front, which the guardians have recently built for their own use, and which appears a very proper and comfortable room. 3rd. A range of narrow and ill-constructed building, which lie behind, and at right angles to the front, and are comparatively modern, and are called the Old Infirmary. And, 4th, a very recently erected detached infirmary.

The 3rd set are devoted to the aged and infirm, amongst whom are many bed-ridden and sick; and the 4th to sick cases alone.

Hence, the sick are found in the two latter buildings. Cases of fever and small-pox are sent to the hospitals; but very few imbeciles and venereal cases are retained; and the children are placed in a separate ward.

There are not any day-rooms for the use of the sick in the infirmary; but there are day-rooms in the buildings devoted to the aged and infirm. Baths, lavatories, and water-closets, are sufficiently provided in the infirmary, but the latter are placed in an enclosure in the wards themselves.

There are not any lavatories or baths in the old infirmary buildings for the aged and infirm, but there is a portable bath for the use of the females only.

The water supply is good, and there is hot water throughout the infirmary.

The yards in connection with the infirmary are of gravel, and adjoin a large open plot of garden land. They are, however, surrounded by walls and doors so high that person walking in them cannot look out. There is a bed of soil running round them, but no plants were there. Hence, the yards were too much like prison yards, without the excellent flagging which is usually found in the latter.

Size of rooms, and  
number of beds.

The following are the dimensions of the wards, with the number of beds, in the two buildings occupied by the sick:—

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	New Infirmary:	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
1	Women's sick ward - -	31 3	22 9	13 0	12
2	Ditto - ditto - - {	31 3 + 31 3	22 9 17 9	11 6 2 6	14
1	Men's sick ward - - {	30 10 + 30 10	22 9 17 9	11 6 2 6	14
2	Ditto - ditto - -	30 10	22 9	13 0	12
	Old Infirmary:				
17	Men's sick ward - - {	30 1 - 3 10	17 0 3 9	10 11 10 11	6
18	Ditto - ditto - - {	30 1 - 12 0	17 0 3 2	10 6 10 6	13
56	Women's sick ward - - {	22 6 - 10 0	17 0 3 3	10 6 10 6	8
58	Ditto - ditto - - {	30 0 - 10 0	17 2 3 3	10 6 10 6	10
54	Ditto - ditto - - {	30 0 - 7 0 - 3 6	17 2 3 0 3 0	10 9 10 9 6 9	11
53	Ditto - ditto - - {	30 0 - 9 0	17 2 3 2	10 7 10 7	11

Hence



Hence the usual width and height of the rooms are, in the infirmary, 23 feet and 13 feet; and in the buildings for the aged and infirm, 17 feet and 10½ feet.  
The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are as follows:—

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Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
	New Infirmary:	<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
1	Woman's sick ward - - - - -	59	770
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	683
1	Men's sick ward - - - - -	50	674
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	58	760
	Old Infirmary:		
17	Men's sick ward - - - - -	83	904
18	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	36	382
56	Women's sick ward - - - - -	44	459
58	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	506
54	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	476
53	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	468

Hence the usual floor space and eubical space per bed in the infirmary is 50 to 60 superficial feet, and 670 to 770 eubic feet; and in the buildings for the aged and infirm, 44 superficial and 400 to 500 cubic feet. None in the new infirmary offer less than 500 cubic feet; but in the old infirmary four are deficient.

The wards in the infirmary are very good; sufficiently large, lofty, and wide, and, as there are windows on both sides, they are light, cheerful, and airy. The defect consists in having a portion at the central end of the rooms partitioned off for a nurse's room on one side, and a lavatory and water-closet on the other side of the gangway. At present there is no communication between these places and the ward, except by the door; and hence they are ill ventilated and disagreeable, and deteriorate the air in the ward.  
There are two small and convenient kitchens, in which the meat is cut up from the joint, the lesser kinds of food prepared, and the nurse's food cooked. The meat for the sick is cooked at a great distance from the infirmary.

General character of wards.

The wards for the aged and infirm are very poor and cheerless. They are very narrow, and have windows on one side only; whilst on the other is a blank wall, except one or two very small round windows placed in it. A nurse's room has recently been cut off from one of the wards, and is a poor and uncomfortable apartment. The occasional ward is unfit for the sick.

The bedding consists of flock upon iron bedsteads, and, with the bed covering, is fairly good. There are, also, straw paillasses in the infirmary, which add to the comfort of the sick.

Bedding and furniture.

The furniture of the wards, and particularly of the aged and infirm wards, is deficient. There are no prints upon the walls, no looking-glasses, no games, no brushes, and only one comb for a ward. There are in the infirmary small lockers and arm-chairs; also, eight towels, and a piece of soap for each ward. There are no dressers in the aged and infirm wards.

Every part, and particularly the infirmary, was clean.

Cleanliness.  
Ventilation.

The ventilation is exceedingly defective in the buildings for the aged and infirm, and in the occasional ward; and is not quite sufficiently good in the infirmary.

In the ward for the aged and infirm there are panes of perforated glass in the windows, ventilators at the top of the room, and Arnott's ventilators, which do not move.

There are also windows, which open, and fire-places. The defect lies in the insufficiency of the ventilators; and especially in the fact that the stairs are inclosed by wooden lobbies, which effectually prevent the staircase from being a ventilator.

In the infirmary there are ventilators at the top and bottom of each side of the ward, and nearly all were shut. There are also ventilators in the ceiling. There is no ventilator in the wooden partitions of the nurse's room, the lavatory, and the water-closet, by which a free circulation of air might be kept up in these places, and thus prevent the accumulation of foul air, and the annoyance of disagreeable smells.

The ventilating windows over the doors were also kept shut.

The rooms for the aged and infirm were very close in the day time, and must be exceedingly so at night.

Two paid female nurses have been appointed, at 20 l. and 15 l. yearly. One has charge of the infirmary, and the other of the female aged and infirm; but the latter also takes charge of such of the aged and infirm men as may be sick.

Nursing.

There is a pauper nurse and a helper to each ward. There are no specially appointed night nurses.

The medical officer is required to visit the workhouse thrice a week, but he thinks it right to attend on four days weekly, and he also pays a night visit about once a month. His practice is to visit every sick and infirm ward, and the sick nursery, on each occasion; and he speaks professionally to from 30 to 40 inmates. There are from 50 to 60 inmates upon

Medical officer.

## Appendix.

## BOTHERNITHE.

his books, but about one-third of them are placed there simply for dietary. He provides all drugs, except cod-liver oil, and bottles, at a cost of fully 12*l.* yearly, and supplied last year 1,400 bottles of medicine. His salary is so miserably low as 35*l.*, with, perhaps, one guinea yearly for lunacy certificates. No extras are allowed for midwifery cases, amounting to 14 or 16 yearly. He thinks that all drugs should be found by the guardians, and the salary should be 70*l.* per year.

He, also, has a district of about 20,000 population, for which he supplies the drugs, and receives a salary of 75*l.*, and 30*l.* to 35*l.* for extras. He keeps an assistant, but attends himself to the workhouse.

There should be two paid night nurses, one for the infirmary and the other for the infirm wards.

The ventilation of the infirmary is good, but that of the infirm wards and the venereal or occasional wards bad.

## Chaplain.

The chaplain is required to perform Divine service once on Sunday and once on a week day; but, in addition, he visits the infirmary once a week, and oftener when required, and is sent for to all persons who are seriously ill or dying. He also visits the infirm wards once or twice a month. He has recently obtained the authority of the guardians to purchase illustrated periodicals.

His salary is 40*l.* per year.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse:—

1. I cannot doubt that the proper course is to take down the old buildings, and the building for the aged and infirm, and construct a new workhouse.

2. It would be much better if in the infirmary the nurses' rooms, the lavatories, and the water-closets were placed apart from the wards; and the latter might be placed in a projecting range not distant from their present site. In the meantime the wooden enclosures should be pierced for windows or ventilators, so as to allow a free current of air to pass through the rooms into the corridors; and the door of the ward should be removed from the corridor to the inner boundary of the rooms. The ventilators in the ward should be kept open, and the cords removed, and the windows over the doors should be plugged open to the extent of one inch or more. Air-bricks should be inserted at the top of the walls in the upper rooms, and be covered with perforated zinc.

3. A proper cooking kitchen should be provided in the infirmary, and the meat should be cooked there.

4. Windows should be placed in the blank walls in the building for the aged and infirm, and in the occasional ward. More ventilators should be added to the rooms. The Arnott ventilators should be made to act, and all other ventilators should be kept open and covered with perforated zinc.

The lobbies should be opened by removing the whole or some of the panels of the enclosure, and thus allow the staircase to be a ventilator. A door could be placed at the foot of the staircase, if necessary, provided sufficient means were allowed for ventilation. Without this improvement of the lobbies the ventilation cannot be made satisfactory.

5. Proper lavatories are required in the aged and infirm wards and the water-closets should be better ventilated by cross draughts.

Hot water should be distributed universally.

6. More furniture should be provided;—such as dressers, cupboards, lockers, arm-chairs with cushions, looking-glasses, prints, games, &c. A comb and brush and towel should be provided for each sick inmate.

7. The nurses' rooms and emoluments are inadequate.

8. The master is not now so able to discharge his duties as formerly, and more active supervision is required. It would be better to make him a superannuation allowance.

9. Two paid night nurses should be appointed.

10. The walls of the infirmary yards should be reduced in height, and an iron palisading placed upon dwarf walls. The yards should be made cheerful by flowers, &c.

11. The guardians should provide all drugs and increase the salary of the medical officer, and allow extras as directed by the Poor Law Board.

12. The number of beds which should be placed in each ward is as follows:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
	New Infirmary:			Old Infirmary:	
1	Women's sick ward - - -	10	17	Men's sick ward - - -	6
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	10	18	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
			56	Women's sick ward - - -	6
1	Men's sick ward - - -	10	58	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
			54	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	10	53	Ditto - ditto - - -	8



PADDINGTON.

WE visited this workhouse on the 21st May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and the medical officer.

The workhouse is built upon a large plot of land, and in a salubrious situation, and is, I believe, well drained. There is a canal on the side of the ground; but the water is not allowed to become stagnant; and, as we were informed, is never offensive.

The workhouse consists of a central portion with extended wings, in which the aged and infirm, able-bodied, and children are placed, and of a detached infirmary, which is placed in the rear, and parallel to it, in which the sick are placed.

There are from 140 to 150 sick persons in the infirmary; and about 100 of the inmates in the body of the workhouse, are so far sick that they attend at the infirmary from time to time. The children are also visited in the workhouse, but of the other inmates all are removed to the infirmary when seriously or continually ill. Itch cases are placed in a part of the receiving ward.

Small-pox cases are always sent to the hospital, but fever cases of whatever kind are retained, and mixed with the other sick! The cases of typhus fever are extremely few, and no evil has been known to follow the existing arrangement. Venereal cases are, almost without exception, sent to the Lock Hospital. All noisy or dangerous cases of lunacy are sent to the asylum; but it often occurs that such cases are retained in the workhouse for a fortnight, whilst awaiting the completion of the legal formalities required for their removal. One case was in a small ward, and submitted to some restraint, who had been sent twice to the county asylum, and returned on both occasions, because she had an eruption upon her skin. This seems to me to be an arbitrary proceeding, attended by waste of funds, and by serious risk to the patient from the journeys, and the inadequacy of the means of treatment of such cases in a workhouse; and there seems no reason why the authorities at the asylum should not provide some wards in which cases of this class could be temporarily placed.

There are no day-rooms for the use of the sick. The bathing and water-closet accommodation is good in the infirmary, and there is hot and cold water above the ground-floor. The arrangements are less satisfactory in the body of the workhouse. There are not any lavatories properly so called in the infirmary, but there are sinks in which all the washing-up is done, and where the inmates may wash themselves. This is not satisfactory.

The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds which the wards contain:—

Appendix.  
PADDINGTON.

Size of rooms, and number of beds.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary:	<i>Ft.</i> <i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i> <i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i> <i>in.</i>	
51	Women's sick ward - -	40 0	20 0	10 0	15
78	Ditto - ditto - -	32 7	20 0	10 0	12
		+ 10 6	6 6	10 0	
78 (a)	Ditto - ditto - -	13 6	10 0	10 0	2
78 (b)	Ditto - ditto - -	11 8	7 8	11 1	2
54	Ditto - ditto - -	40 5	20 0	11 0	16
		+ 40 5	15 0	2 6	
77	Ditto - ditto - -	48 6	20 0	11 0	
		+ 48 6	15 0	2 6	14
53	Women's lying-in ward -	30 0	16 5	9 7	6
74	Women's lying-in ward (spare room).	17 6	14 8	9 9	4
49	Men's sick ward - -	40 5	20 0	11 0	15
		+ 40 5	15 0	2 6	
75	Ditto - ditto - -	48 6	20 0	11 0	
		+ 48 6	15 0	2 6	17
76	Ditto - ditto - -	32 7	20 0	10 0	14
		+ 10 6	6 6	10 0	
50	Ditto - ditto - -	40 0	20 0	10 0	
	Children's sick ward (containing 6 women and 6 children).	16 5	17 0	10 0	6
	Children's sick ward (containing 6 women and 4 children).	16 5	17 0	10 0	6
	Main Building:				
18	Boys' sick ward - -	39 4	16 9	10 0	15
		- 7 0	6 7	10 0	
17	Ditto - ditto - -	36 0	15 10	10 0	

Appendix.  
PADDINGTON.

Hence the usual height and width of the wards in the infirmary are 10 to 12½ feet and 20 feet.  
The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed, are as follows :—

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
	Infirmary :		
51	Women's sick ward - - - - -	53	533
78	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	60	600
78 (a)	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	67	675
78 (b)	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	44	495
54	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	650
77	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	69	892
53	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	82	787
74	Women's lying-in ward (spare room) - - - - -	64	626
49	Men's sick ward - - - - -	54	694
75	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	57	755
76	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	513
50	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	62	615
	Children's sick ward (containing 6 women and 6 children.	46	465
	Children's sick ward (containing 6 women and 4 children).	46	465
	Main Building :		
18	Boys' sick ward - - - - -	41	408
17	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	114	1,140

General character of wards.

Hence it appears that the usual floor space and cubical space, in the infirmary, are 50 to 64 superficial feet, and 495 to 892 cubic feet, and only one ward has somewhat less cubical space than is required by the Poor Law Board.  
The size and general appearance of the wards are good, since they are lofty and wide, and not too large. There are, in general, windows on both sides, and they are light, airy, and cheerful. The lying-in ward has windows on one side only, and is a less agreeable room. There are also some small wards, which are useful, and there are no less than four padded rooms—a number in excess of the requirement, whilst at the same time other accommodation for violent cases is deficient.  
The staircases are wide.

Bedding and furniture.

The beds are hair-mattresses, placed upon iron lath bedsteads, and were generally very thin in the centre, and permit the iron laths to be felt through them. They were also, in many cases, discoloured by the iron, from the absence of cocoa fibre matting, or some other substance between them and the bedstead. The condition of the mattress was unsatisfactory ; and it appears that no well-arranged system of picking the hair, and re-making them, exists in the workhouse. This is a defect which might be advantageously remedied by the daily employment of a few of the old men.  
There are bells in all the wards.  
The rugs, in the women's wards, are white, and look agreeable, whilst those in the men's wards are yellow ; and as they are of cotton, and old, and not cleanly looking, woollen rugs of good quality, and with some stripes of bright colour, would have looked far better.  
The furniture and appliances are very defective. There are no lockers, or dressers ; but there are shelves round the room. Only one roller-towel is provided for a ward weekly, but many of the inmates have their own towel. Only one or two combs, and in some instances none, and no brushes, are provided by the guardians. Some of the inmates have their own comb, and a very few their own brush ; and we were informed that the guardians had supplied combs, from time to time, but they had been broken, or lost, and not replaced.  
Pottery washhand basins are provided, but only one or two could be found in a ward, and they were usually broken. In one of the women's wards some of the inmates wash in their pots, and, as we ascertained, did this against their will, and their former habits at home. The pots were also used as chamber utensils. This seemed to be quite unexpected, both by the master and the nurse, and the pauper nurse was blamed for not having applied for other washhand basins ; but it is difficult to believe that such a course could be pursued if the matron and paid nurse had discharged their duties properly, and had visited the wards at proper times and examined into their arrangements. Neither is it a sufficient excuse that the pauper nurse had not informed the officers of these defects, since the matron and paid nurse ought to know, from their own daily observation what exists and what is required.  
We did not find this habit general, on the women's side, and it did not exist on the men's side. The paid female nurse had only entered upon her duties a few days before, and did not appear to have made herself acquainted with the arrangements of the infirmary.

There



There are prints, illustrated periodicals, and books. In some of the wards there was a deficiency of chairs, and in none were there cushions for the benches.

There are no metal warmers, but bottles are used.

Many of the sinks were without plugs, and must have allowed solid matters to pass down. We did not, however, perceive any drain smells, and in explanation it was stated that the drains in the yard were properly trapped.

There was a deficiency of waterproof sheeting for the lying-in ward, but we were informed that these and other appliances had been ordered.

With the exception of the filthy habit beforementioned, nothing was found uncleanly. The linen, in general, was clean; but, in some instances, that in the men's wards was less so than in the women's wards. The floors and furniture were clean. Cleanliness.

The arrangements for ventilation are, upon the whole, good. There are openings in the ceiling, which communicate with air bricks in the outer wall, and under which, in a few instances, a gas burner is placed. It is proposed to place an argand burner under others; but if this be done, care must be taken lest the great heat, generated by the combustion of the gas, should ignite the wood in the ventilators and floors. I think it will be dangerous. Ventilation.

In many instances these openings are without, and in others with, perforated zinc. When without, there is a wooden shutter, which may be removed.

There are also a few air bricks in the chimneys; and in many of the wards there are air bricks in the walls, near to the floor, which are covered with perforated zinc and a shutter.

There are also ventilating windows over all the doors.

Here, however, as elsewhere, nearly all the ventilators were shut. All those near the floor, and the ventilating windows, were shut, and a majority of those in the ceiling.

The ordinary windows are also made to open, and to be fixed with a rack; and it is manifest that the ventilation has been hitherto regulated by these windows. The master and nurse stated that the air at night was not more disagreeable than in their own bedrooms; but it must be clear that with the windows and ventilators shut, even with large and wide wards, the ventilation must be defective in the night. The ventilation of the lying-in ward was not good; and that of the upper rooms was not so good as that of those below, because, although the rooms are more lofty, the windows are placed far below the top of the room, and the ventilators are inadequate.

The sinks and water-closets are not well ventilated.

There are now two paid nurses, a male and a female; the latter of whom also attends many of the midwifery cases. They have recently entered upon their duties, and will receive 30*l.* and 25*l.* per year, with rations. Nursing.

They are understood to give both the medicines and the stimulants; but in practice the latter is not always effected.

There are an unpaid nurse, and one or two helpers in each ward.

There is no specially appointed night nurse.

The medical officer devotes about two and a half hours daily to his duties, and, on the average is called in the night about twice in a month. He is expected to attend the midwifery; but, in fact, the nurse attends all the simple cases. Medical officer.

The guardians engage a chemist to provide and dispense the medicines, at a cost of about 60*l.* per year; but as quinine, cod-liver oil, ointments, &c. are regarded as extras, the cost is about double that sum. This appears to me to be a wasteful procedure; and it would be much better to purchase the drugs, and have a dispenser, who could act also as clerk or as nurse.

He thinks that more room is required in the infirmary, and that the sick children, fever cases, and itch cases should be warded in rooms by themselves.

If the children were brought into the infirmary a paid nurse for them and for the lying-in ward would be useful.

His salary is 60*l.* per year; and extras for midwifery and lunacy certificates amounting to from 40*l.* to 60*l.* per year. He does not keep an assistant for these duties, and he has not a district. He thinks that his salary should be 200*l.* a year.

The following are the recommendations which I make respecting this workhouse:— Recommendations.

1. The infirmary should be raised a storey.
2. There should be separate itch, fever, and sick children's wards, and no case whatever of these classes should be mixed with others.
3. Proper lavatories should be provided.
4. A towel, comb and brush, and soap, should be provided for each sick person. Wash-hand basins in proper quantity should be supplied; and any officer or nurse punished who allows the inmates to wash in the pots.
5. Dressers, lockers, games, waterproof sheeting, chairs, cushions, and other furniture and comforts, should be supplied.
6. Rocking-chairs should be placed in the lying-in ward.
7. The salary of the medical officer should be increased; and he should himself attend all cases of midwifery.

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PADDINGTON.

8. It would be better for the guardians to provide drugs, and a dispenser at the workhouse, and employ the latter also as a clerk or nurse.

9. I doubt if a male nurse should supplant the employment of a paid female nurse for the men.

10. The mattresses should immediately be picked and re-made, and a system adopted whereby this shall be regularly effected.

11. The traps should be fixed in the sinks.

12. The ventilators throughout should be kept open, and the shutters removed. Should there be too great a current, the openings should be covered with perforated zinc.

The ventilating windows over all the doors should be plugged open to the extent of one inch or more. Air bricks should be inserted around the upper rooms. Perforated glass should be placed in the windows of the sinks and waterclosets and in the open panes of the small lower rooms.

13. Woollen capes, and more woollen gowns, and metal warmers, should be provided.

14. The baths should be kept free; and shelves placed round the scullery, upon which various articles should be placed.

15. The deficiency of supply of water on Monday is a serious evil, which the water companies should be called upon to remedy. The supply should be continuous.

16. More fitting accommodation should be provided for noisy and dangerous lunatics whilst waiting to be forwarded to the asylum, and such cases should not be detained beyond 48 hours.

17. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
	Infirmary:		49	Men's sick ward - - -	12 or 14
			75	Ditto - ditto - - -	16
51	Women's sick ward - - -	12 or 13	76	Ditto - ditto - - -	11
78	Ditto - ditto - - -	10 or 11	50	Ditto - ditto - - -	12 or 13
78 (a)	Ditto - ditto - - -	2		Children's sick ward - - -	—
78 (b)	Ditto - ditto - - -	1		(containing 6 women and 6 children).	
54	Ditto - ditto - - -	12 or 13		Children's sick ward - - -	—
77	Ditto - ditto - - -	16		(containing 6 women and 4 children).	
53	Ditto lying-in ward - - -	6		Main Building:	
74	Ditto - ditto (spare room)	3	18	Boys' sick ward - - -	—
			17	Ditto - ditto - - -	—

No. 33.

ST. PANCRA S.

ST. PANCRA S.

WE visited the St. Pancras Workhouse on the 22d May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

The workhouse occupies about 5½ acres of land in a salubrious position, but is surrounded by other buildings. It consists of numerous blocks of detached buildings of all sizes and modes of construction, which have been erected at various periods, and without the least regard to unity of design.

The main building faces the street, and is occupied by the aged and infirm and imbeciles, of whom there are more than 600. There are detached wards for lunacy cases, containing upwards of 280 inmates: for the general sick, containing 230 to 240 patients; for the lying-in wards, and for the nurseries, besides other classes, which did not come under our observation.

There were 1,960 inmates in the workhouse on the day of our inspection.

Fever and small-pox cases are sent to the hospitals; but there are fever wards in which to place any case which must be retained. Noisy and dangerous lunatics are sent to the asylums. Venereal cases are retained. Itch cases are placed in separate wards; but those occurring amongst the casuals are placed in the receiving ward. The children, except such as are sick, are sent to a district school; and the latter are, for the most part, placed in the sick nursery.

The separation of the different classes in separate buildings does not provide a perfect classification, whilst it gives the workhouse the appearance of a small village, and is not convenient to those officials who must visit the several buildings daily.

The



The yards allotted to each class of inmates are small; but there is much space between the buildings, which is covered with grass, and planted with trees, and has a very agreeable appearance.

Appendix.

ST. PANCRA8.

There are not any day rooms for the sick. There are not proper lavatories, or fixed bath rooms; but there are small sinks, and water-closets in sufficient number.

There are small kitchens, where the food is warmed, and certain kinds of food cooked.

There is a supply of hot water all over the infirmary. The cold water is derived from a very large well upon the premises, and is of excellent quality; but the cisterns are not large enough, and the supply is therefore somewhat defective.

We inspected the whole of the infirmary, and lying-in wards, and the nurseries; and some of the wards for the aged and infirm, and imbeciles, in the body of the workhouse; and generally observed the day rooms and dormitories of the lunatics.

The number of sick persons amongst the aged and infirm, and imbeciles, in any ward is but as small; but there are 23 wards of this class for women, and five for men; the total number of sick amongst them is not inconsiderable.

The following are the dimensions of the several wards which we inspected, with the number of beds which we found in each room:

Size of Rooms and Number of Beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.		Breadth.		Height.		Number of Beds.
	Infirmary:	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	
2	Women's sick ward (special cases).	16	7	10	5	11	5	5
3	Ditto - ditto - - - {	26	3	21	6	11	4	12
		+19	6	5	0	3	6	
11	Men's sick ward - - - {	74	4	21	11	12	5	31
7	Ditto - ditto - - - {	25	10	21	11	11	1	12
		+20	0	5	0	3	6	
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	64	9	21	11	11	5	29
5	Men's itch ward - - -	18	3	21	11	12	0	9
16	Women's sick ward - - -	74	2	22	10	12	5	32
15	Ditto - ditto - - -	24	5	22	0	12	5	10
27	Women and children's sick ward (18 children and 9 adults).	29	3	22	10	14	3	14
		+13	4	11	9	14	3	
		-4	0	3	6	10	0	31
24	Women's sick ward - - -	74	4	22	10	14	3	
25	Women and children's sick ward (11 children and 2 adults).	35	0	11	4	11	2	7 double.
		+8	0	7	7	11	2	
29	Women's sick ward - - - {	29	9	22	10	14	3	16
		12	10	11	8	14	3	
		-4	0	3	6	9	6	
—	Temporary infirmary - -	58	4	30	0	12	0	31
	Principal Building:							
135	Lying-in ward - - -	42	4	17	2	12	3	12
137	Convalescent ward - - -	34	10	17	0	12	5	9
141	Ditto - ditto - - -	25	6	17	0	12	5	* 8 double.
187	Women's infirm ward - - -	32	4	21	9	12	3	14
182	Women's imbecile ward - - -	60	0	17	0	12	3	22
153	Ditto - ditto (11 patients)	26	3	21	8	12	6	5 double. 5 single.
282	Ditto - ditto - - -	66	3	20	0	11	10	25
282a	Ditto - ditto - - -	20	9	11	2	11	9	6
283	Women's epileptic ward - - - {	29	3	28	3	11	9	20
		+17	6	9	3	11	9	

\* Sometimes used as double beds.

Hence the usual height and width of the infirmary wards are 11 to 14 feet, and 22 feet; of the lying-in wards, 12 to 14 feet, and 17 feet; and of the aged and infirm wards 12 feet, and 21 feet. The width of the older imbecile wards is 17 to 21, and 14 feet, but those in the new buildings are 28 feet.

## Appendix.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are as follow :

## ST. PANCRAS.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
Infirmary :		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
2	Women's sick ward (special cases) - - - -	34	394
3	Ditto - ditto - - - -	47	561
11	Men's sick ward - - - -	52	652
7	Ditto - ditto - - - -	47	552
6	Ditto - ditto - - - -	49	559
5	Men's itch ward - - - -	44	523
16	Women's sick ward - - - -	53	657
15	Ditto - ditto - - - -	54	667
27	Women and children (18 children and 9 adults) -	58	829
24	Women's sick ward - - - -	55	780
25	Women and children (11 children and 2 adults) -	32	365
29	Women's sick ward - - - -	51	730
—	Temporary infirmary - - - -	56	677
Principal Building :			
135	Lying-in ward - - - -	60	742
137	Convalescent ward - - - -	66	817
141	Ditto - ditto - - - -	27	336*
187	Women's infirm ward - - - -	50	615
182	Women's imbecile ward - - - -	46	568
153	Ditto - ditto (11 patients) - - - -	38	474
282	Ditto - ditto - - - -	53	627
282a	Ditto - ditto - - - -	38	454
283	Women's epileptic ward - - - -	49	580

\* There are not usually two adults in one bed.

Hence the usual floor space and cubical space in the infirmary are 47 to 56 superficial feet, and 533 to 780 cubic feet (one ward offers less than 400 cubic feet); and in the aged and infirm wards 38 to 53 superficial feet, and 452 to 615 cubic feet. When two adults occupy one bed in the lying-in convalescent ward the cubic space is reduced to less than 350 cubic feet.

## General character of Wards.

The size and general appearance of the wards are good.

The main building consists of a range of wards on each side of a fairly wide corridor; and the wards have outer windows on one side only. There are, however, other windows which look into the corridor; and as the rooms are sufficiently high, and the outer windows high and numerous, the wards are light, airy, and cheerful.

The infirmary wards have, for the most part, windows on both sides, and are large, airy, and cheerful.

The building in which the lying-in wards are placed has a range of wards on each side of a somewhat narrow, and somewhat dark corridor. The ward has therefore outer windows on one side only; but there are windows looking upon the corridor on the other. As the wards are narrow, and the number of windows insufficient, these wards are less light, airy, and cheerful than others, and less than is desirable.

The wards for the female insane are very excellent, and are light and cheerful. Those in the new building are too wide to be perfectly useful without a third row of beds; but otherwise they are admirable wards.

The exceptions to the general rule are as follow :—

1. Those in the basement of the infirmary, and particularly the men's itch ward, the female venereal ward, the special ward for children, and No. 7 ward. These are too dark, and are not light, airy, and cheerful.

The male surgical ward has windows on one side only; and although much less objectionable than those just mentioned, requires improvement.

2. The lying-in wards are very narrow, and, as a whole, are not so good as some others; and the convalescent ward, No. 137, is less light than either of the other two.

The midwife's room, which is placed between these wards, and must be traversed by the doctor and others, is not so large and comfortable as it should be.

3. No. 153 has windows on one side only; and is not so light and cheerful as others. There are, however, two yards leading directly from this ward, and when the doors are open the ward is more cheerful.

4. The ward for epileptics in the new building is less light and cheerful than it should be, on account of the necessity of whitening the panes, and the comparative smallness of the windows.

5. No. 25 ward for the use of children, is too long and narrow to be light and cheerful.

The



The beds are of flock upon iron bedsteads. The flock is not sufficiently teased, and some of the beds are not sufficiently full. There is usually sacking to the bedsteads, which tends to obviate the inconvenience of the thin and somewhat lumpy beds; but in the epileptic ward the bedsteads are cribs with wooden bottoms, and the beds must be hard.

There are woollen rugs covered by a check counterpane, and the bed coverings are good and sufficient. There are window curtains. There are not any dressers, bookshelves, cushions, or looking glasses. A set of shelves is placed between each two beds, which supplies the place of lockers. Chairs are deficient in many of the rooms. In some rooms there are not benches with backs, but only forms. There are night stools, screens, and pulleys in each ward. Only two foot warmers and one chest warmer were found in a ward with 30 persons—a number which appeared to me to be insufficient in the winter season, but which the medical officer thought to be sufficient. There are exceedingly few prints upon the walls, and no illustrated periodicals are purchased by the guardians. There is a library, at which the books are changed weekly, and many of the inmates purchase newspapers.

Eighteen small enamelled iron basins, 24 round towels, two combs, and a piece of soap, are provided for a ward of 31 persons. Many of the inmates have their own combs; but no brushes are provided by the guardians, and very few indeed are used by the inmates.

Foot, hip, and moveable slipper baths are found in all the large wards.

Cleanliness of linen, wards, and furniture, was universal; but the state of the small sculleries or sinks was not always satisfactory. Cleanliness.

There is not one special labour-bed, but each person is confined in the bed which she is to occupy; and mackintosh sheets are abundant.

The arrangements for ventilation are various. In some wards there are ventilators in the floors, which communicate directly with air bricks in the outer wall; in others, there are ventilators in a shaft in the wall, which, after descending, communicate with a grating in the outer wall. There are also Arnott's ventilators, or single air bricks, in many of the wards. In the lying-in wards, and in the body of the workhouse, there are ventilating windows, which have a jet burning on the corridor side. They project at their base into the rooms, and have the opening caused by the projection closed by perforated zinc and a shutter. When the gas is lit the current will set outwardly. Ventilation.

As in other workhouses, nearly all these ventilators of whatever kind are closed; and the ventilation is made dependent upon the windows.

The windows throughout the workhouse open either by hinges at the bottom of each sash, and by the aid of a rack, or each large pane is so set that it may be opened. So far as windows can be used as ventilators, there are many which are serviceable, and the ventilation is in general good in the day time; but at night they are very generally shut, and the ventilation of many of the rooms must be very defective.

In some of the rooms there are no ventilators. The greatest defect in reference to ventilation is probably connected with the sculleries and water-closets. These rooms are very small, and placed in direct connection with the wards; and, in order to be properly ventilated, must not only be in direct communication with the outer air, but with the ward also. At present the ventilation is very defective, and there is no communication with the ward except by the door; and instead of the communications with the outer air being of use to ventilate the ward, these rooms need the ward to enable any one to ventilate them. They should have been much larger, and further removed from the wards.

There is a considerable staff of paid nurses in this workhouse, as the following list will show:— Nursing.

*In the Infirmary.*—One superintendent nurse, four day nurses, and one night nurse. The first receives 10 s. per week, and the others 7 s. per week.

*In the Imbecile Ward.*—One superintendent receiving 10 s. per week, and two nurses receiving 7 s. each per week.

*In the Aged and Infirm Ward.*—One superintendent for the males, and one superintendent for the females, receiving 35 l. per year; also one day and one night nurse, receiving each 7 s. per week.

*For the Lunatics.*—One male superintendent receiving 35 l. per year, and one female nurse receiving 7 s. per week. These are man and wife.

*Midwife,* receiving 30 l. per year.

*Nurse in the Receiving Ward,* receiving 7 s. per week.

There are also one or more helpers in every ward who are unpaid, but receive extra rations.

The paid nurses give the stimulants and medicine.

There still exists a necessity for another night nurse in the infirmary.

There are two medical gentlemen residing within the workhouse, one of whom is the responsible medical officer, and the other is his assistant. The medical officer has his apartments in the infirmary, and takes special charge of the cases in the infirmary, the lying-in wards, the nurseries, and the lunacy wards. He commences work at 8.30 a.m., when he sees patients at the dispensary, who attend from various parts of the workhouse. From 10 a.m. till 3.30 p.m. he is engaged in the continued discharge of his duties, and afterwards sees such cases as he may be specially called to attend. He thus sees daily from 230 to 240 cases in the infirmary, about four important cases in the lying-in wards, and about 30 of the worst cases in the insane wards; a total number of 260 persons. He also sees Medical Officers.

## Appendix.

## ST. PANCRAS.

sees thrice a week the cases in the lying-in ward, the convalescent lying-in ward, the infant nurseries, the infirm men and women, and the insane and imbeciles. He, moreover, attends the difficult cases of midwifery.

His assistant has apartments in the body of the workhouse, and assists the medical officer in the cases for admission and the children in the nurseries, and attends to the male and female aged and infirm. He is regularly engaged from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m., and at other periods as occasion may require.

The salary of the medical officer is 160 *l.*, and he receives about 40 *l.* for extras for vaccinations and *post-mortem* examinations. His assistant receives 85 *l.* per year. Each has apartments and rations, and a pauper servant.

The guardians provide all the drugs and a dispenser.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse :—

1. I doubt very much whether any sick cases should be treated in the basement wards; and certainly the four wards to which I have referred already are not suitable, and their use should be discontinued.

Two women and two children should never be placed in one bed.

New lying-in wards are desirable.

2. In reference to ventilation :

(A.) Especial attention should be given to the state of the sculleries and water-closets throughout the infirmary. If it be not possible to enlarge them by carrying out projections, every available opportunity should be used to thoroughly ventilate them. Panes of perforated glass should be in all the windows; the water-closet window should be fastened open; air bricks should be inserted in the upper and lower part of both. Improved pans for the water-closet should be provided; and openings should be made through the door to the water-closet, and to the wards.

There are shutters without windows in some of the sculleries, which should be removed, and proper windows, with ventilators, inserted.

(B.) Wherever there are blank walls windows should be inserted, if practicable. This is required in Nos. 3 (two windows), 7, 6, 32, 15, 25 and 137.

(C.) All ventilators should be kept open at all times, and the openings covered with perforated zinc. This applies to those in the floor, the walls, and the windows in which there is a ventilator at the bottom. All shutters should be removed.

When there are shafts they should be cleaned out from time to time, to take away the smoke and dirt; and, if necessary, air bricks should be inserted on the outside, nearly opposite to the openings on the inside.

(D.) The following wards need new ventilators :

No. 2. Perforated glass; ventilator over the door.

No. 3. Perforated zinc in skylight; improved lamp ventilator; perforated glass.

No. 11. Perforated glass.

No. 7. Perforated zinc in skylight; windows; air bricks.

No. 6. Windows, perforated glass; openings over the doors.

The urinal on the outside should be removed.

No. 32. Two windows, perforated glass; additional ventilators.

The nurse's room needs perforated glass.

No. 15. Perforated glass in windows; ventilating windows into the corridor.

No. 14. I doubt much whether it would not be better to cover the large round openings at the top with perforated glass, or zinc, instead of by a wooden shutter. One shutter is said to be always open; but this is dependent on the judgment and care of the nurses.

The adjoining scullery needs windows.

No. 24. Louvre ventilators in the roof.

No. 25. Windows; perforated zinc.

The nurse's room needs perforated glass in the doors.

No. 29. Scullery, windows; lying-in ward, perforated glass.

Scullery of lying-in ward; perforated glass.

No. 137. Convalescent, windows; ventilators in the floor to air bricks.

No. 141. Convalescent and scullery, perforated glass; and openings in the door.

Midwife's room should be enlarged; perforated glass in the window, and over the door.

No. 182. Ventilating glass.

No. 153. Air bricks on two sides.

3. A proper cooking kitchen for the infirmary, and a better mode of serving the food are desirable.

4. Dressers,



4. Dressers, chairs, looking-glasses, rocking-chairs, for the nursery and lying-in wards, prints, books, illustrated periodicals, games, bed-trays, and benches, with backs and cushions, are required.

The rooms would be much more cheerful if properly coloured.

5. Fixed baths, with hot and cold water supply, are required; and perhaps this might be effected when the sculleries and water-closets are enlarged.

6. An abundant supply of water should be constant.

7. The position of the dead house is unsuitable and should be changed.

8. An additional night nurse should be engaged.

9. The salary of the medical officer and his assistant should be increased. It may, however, be worthy of consideration, whether two of equal rank and emoluments should not be appointed, and their several duties be well defined. The labours and responsibility of the medical officer are, I think, much greater than they should be, and should be curtailed. The duties and responsibilities of the infirmary alone are quite enough for one, even for the best medical officer; and well merit a large increase on the present salary.

10. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary :		29	Women's sick ward - -	11 or 12
2	Women's sick ward (special cases)	2 or 3	-	Temporary infirmary - -	20 or 26
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	8 or 9		Principal Building :	
11	Men's sick ward - - -	24 or 25		Lying-in ward - - -	10 or 12
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	8	135	Convalescent ward - - -	8 or 9
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 or 22	137	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7
5	Men's itch ward - - -	6	141	Women's infirm ward - -	10 or 11
16	Women's sick ward - -	24 or 25	187	Women's imbecile ward -	18
15	Ditto - ditto - - -	8	182	Ditto - ditto (11 patients)	8 or 9
27	Women and children's sick ward (18 children and 9 adults).		153	Ditto - ditto - - -	22
24	Women's sick ward - -	24 or 25	282	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 4
25	Women and children's sick ward (11 children and 2 adults).		282a	Women's epileptic ward -	13 or 16
			283		

No. 34.

BETHNAL GREEN.

BETHNAL GREEN.

WE visited this workhouse on the 23d May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

It is built upon only a moderately sized plot of land; but is surrounded by land which might doubtless be obtained at a comparatively small cost. The situation is salubrious; and as Victoria Park closely adjoins the property, it is not surrounded by a dense population.

The main building is of great length, and occupies one plane; and adjoining it, at a right angle, are the proper infirmary buildings.

The sick are placed in the separate infirmary; and there are also sick cases in all the wards for the aged and infirm, in the body of the workhouse.

Fever and small-pox cases are sent to the hospitals; and when a case of fever must be temporarily retained, a circumstance which very rarely occurs, or when a case of scarlet fever exists, they are placed with other patients in a general ward, and kept separate, as far as possible. Itch cases are not numerous, and they, in like manner, are placed in a general ward with other cases. Noisy and dangerous lunatics, and imbeciles, are sent to an asylum; but there are some cases of this class who are kept apart on account of being troublesome. The harmless ones are placed with the general inmates. There are two padded rooms, in which cases are sometimes placed, waiting their removal to an asylum. None, in the opinion of the medical officer, are required for women.

Venereal cases are sent to the Lock Hospital; and scarcely any are retained in the workhouse.

The children occupy a large part of the workhouse, which might, with greater propriety, be devoted to adults; and the sick children occupy several wards in the infirmary.

The bath room, water-closet, and lavatory accommodation, in the upper part of the infirmary

## Appendix.

BETHNAL GREEN.

infirmary is probably sufficient; but as there are none on the ground floor, the inmates use the night stools, or go into the yard. Great deficiency of the same kind exists in the lying-in wards, and in the whole body of the workhouse; but the guardians have already arranged two good lavatories and series of water-closets; and a sufficient supply of proper baths, water-closets, and lavatories, will be then provided. There is hot and cold water on each floor.

Size of Rooms and  
Number of Beds.

The following are the dimensions of the several wards, with the number of beds now placed in each ward:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary:	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
1	Children's sick ward (6 children and 2 adults).	35 9	18 0	10 10	16
2	Children's sick ward (8 children and 2 adults).	35 9	18 0	12 9	16
3	Boy's sick ward (6 boys and 2 women).	+ 35 9	14 0	2 0	
5	Women's sick ward - -	35 9	18 0	10 10	16
7	Children's sick ward (9 children and 3 adults).	36 6	18 6	10 10	16
8	Women's sick ward - -	34 4	18 3	10 10	14
6	Ditto - ditto - -	34 3	18 6	12 9	
4	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 34 3	14 6	2 0	16
		36 6	18 7	12 9	
		+ 36 6	14 7	2 0	16
		35 10	18 0	12 9	
		+ 35 10	14 0	2 0	
	Body of the House:				
10	Lying-in ward (labour ward)	11 2	11 9	10 10	2
10a	Ditto - ditto - -	10 0	10 10	10 10	2
10b	Lying-in ward (convalescent ward).	17 4	13 0	10 10	4
10c	Ditto - ditto - -	18 7	17 4	10 10	3
11	Women's sick ward - -	49 0	17 4	10 10	18
12	Ditto - ditto - -	- 6 0	3 0	10 10	
9	Women's insane ward - -	45 8	17 3	10 11	16
9a	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 6 0	1 6	10 11	
13	Women's sick ward - -	23 3	12 0	10 10	5
14	Ditto - ditto - -	18 2	13 2	10 10	5
14a	Ditto - ditto - -	30 2	18 0	10 9	14
14b	Ditto - ditto - -	18 3	11 7	10 9	4
15	Ditto - ditto - -	30 4	18 2	10 10	14
15a	Ditto - ditto - -	- 6 0	1 6	10 10	
15b	Ditto - ditto - -	- 6 0	1 6	8 6	4
30	Ditto - ditto - -	15 0	12 0	12 0	
43	Ditto - ditto - -	- 5 3	1 3	12 0	4
42	Ditto - ditto - -	15 0	11 9	12 0	
23	Men's sick ward - -	- 5 3	1 3	12 0	4
23a	Ditto - ditto - -	15 0	12 0	12 0	
24	Ditto - ditto - -	- 5 3	1 3	12 0	12
25	Ditto - ditto - -	21 2	18 3	10 0	
26	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 21 2	13 3	3 6	17
27	Ditto - ditto - -	41 6	18 2	10 0	
28	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 41 6	13 2	3 6	29
29	Ditto - ditto - -	53 3	18 1	10 0	
30	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 53 3	13 1	3 6	20
31	Ditto - ditto - -	42 6	18 2	10 0	
32	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 42 6	13 2	3 6	13
33	Ditto - ditto - -	30 0	18 2	10 0	
34	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 30 0	13 2	3 6	13
34a	Ditto - ditto - -	31 5	18 2	10 0	
34b	Ditto - ditto - -	+ 31 5	13 2	3 6	3
23	Men's sick ward - -	23 0	10 9	10 9	
23a	Ditto - ditto - -	32 0	17 8	10 8	16
24	Ditto - ditto - -	12 0	11 0	10 8	3
25	Ditto - ditto - -	29 2	17 9	10 8	10
26	Ditto - ditto - -	- 6 0	1 6	10 8	
27	Ditto - ditto - -	43 0	17 8	10 8	15
28	Ditto - ditto - -	- 6 0	3 0	10 8	
29	Ditto - ditto - -	49 3	17 8	10 8	18
30	Ditto - ditto - -	- 6 0	3 0	10 8	
31	Ditto - ditto - -	45 9	17 8	10 8	17
32	Ditto - ditto - -	- 6 0	3 0	10 8	



No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
Body of the House— <i>cont<sup>d</sup></i> .		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
26	Men's sick ward - - -	39 10	17 8	10 8	15
20	Ditto - ditto - - -	32 9	18 3	10 9	15
		— 6 0	3 0	10 9	
20a	Ditto - ditto - - -	23 3	10 8	10 9	3
19	Ditto - ditto - - -	30 3	18 2	10 9	11
17	Ditto - ditto - - -	42 6	18 2	10 9	15
29	Ditto - ditto - - -	43 9	18 0	10 9	15
		— 6 0	3 0	10 9	
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	40 0	17 2	10 10	14
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	43 0	17 3	10 11	15
		— 6 0	3 0	10 11	
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	29 0	17 3	10 11	10
		— 6 0	1 6	10 11	
8	Men's insane ward - - -	10 10	10 0	10 11	1
8a	Ditto - ditto - - -	12 0	11 0	10 11	2

Hence the usual height and width of the wards are 11 to 14 feet, and 17 to 18 feet.  
The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are as follow:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
Infirmary :		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
1	Children's sick ward (6 children and 2 adults) - - -	40	436
2	Ditto - ditto (8 children and 2 adults) - - -	40	575
3	Boys' sick ward (6 boys and two women) - - -	40	436
5	Women's sick ward - - -	42	457
7	Children's sick ward (9 children and 3 adults) - - -	39	424
8	Women's sick ward - - -	45	648
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	42	607
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	40	577
Body of the House :			
10	Lying-in ward (labour ward) - - -	65	710
10a	Ditto - - ditto - - -	54	587
10b	Lying-in ward (convalescent ward) - - -	56	610
10c	Ditto - - ditto - - -	107	1,163
11	Women's sick ward - - -	46	500
12	Ditto - ditto - - -	50	544
9	Women's insane ward - - -	56	604
9a	Ditto - ditto - - -	48	518
13	Women's sick ward - - -	39	417
14	Ditto - ditto - - -	53	568
14a	Ditto - ditto - - -	38	414
15	Ditto - ditto - - -	43	522
15a	Ditto - ditto - - -	42	508
15b	Ditto - ditto - - -	43	522
30	Ditto - ditto - - -	32	404
43	Ditto - ditto - - -	44	556
42	Ditto - ditto - - -	33	416
31	Ditto - ditto - - -	38	484
33	Ditto - ditto - - -	42	525
34	Ditto - ditto - - -	44	550
34a	Ditto - ditto - - -	82	886
23	Men's sick ward - - -	35	377
23a	Ditto - ditto - - -	44	469
24	Ditto - ditto - - -	51	542
25	Ditto - ditto - - -	49	527
22	Ditto - ditto - - -	47	505
21	Ditto - ditto - - -	47	498
26	Ditto - ditto - - -	47	500
20	Ditto - ditto - - -	39	415
20a	Ditto - ditto - - -	83	889
19	Ditto - ditto - - -	50	537
17	Ditto - ditto - - -	51	553
29	Ditto - ditto - - -	51	551
5	Ditto - ditto - - -	49	531
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	48	527
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	49	536
8	Men's insane ward - - -	108	1,183
8a	Ditto - ditto - - -	66	720

## Appendix.

## BETHNAL GREEN.

Hence it appears that the usual floor space and cubical space in the wards for adults in the infirmary are 40 to 45 superficial feet, and 457 to 648 cubic feet, and in the body of the workhouse, 33 to 83 superficial feet, and 377 to 889 cubic feet, in the rooms which are built into the roof. Two rooms offer greater cubical space, and one less than 400 cubic feet.

No less than 10 of 42 wards afford less cubical space to each bed than is required by the poor Law Board.

## General character of Wards.

The size and general appearance of the wards are, upon the whole, not unsatisfactory, except in being much too narrow.

The main body of the workhouse has a wide corridor, on each side of which the wards are placed. Hence the outer windows can be only on one side; but there are ventilating windows on the other side which open to the corridor.

The corridor is wide; and the two upper ones are light and fairly airy; so that they are most valuable as ventilators, and might, when properly fitted up, be of the greatest service as exercise grounds. The lower corridor is much darker; and, in my opinion, it is essential that more light and air should be admitted by a large window at the end, and by cross corridors, with large windows at each end, in the places which I have pointed out.

The infirmary buildings are of two or three dates; and exhibit certain differences in construction. Those proceeding from the main building at right angles, and by another right angle forming two sides of a square, are of one room deep; and have therefore not only outer windows of the usual size on one side; but some windows, however small, on the opposite side. Additional windows are, however, required in many of these rooms. The infirmary has only two stories; and the upper one, like the third story in the main building, being built into the roof, has lofty rooms.

The rooms which are occupied by the imbeciles, and the lying-in wards on the ground floor in the main building, are much less satisfactory. They are very small; and although on the inner side there are new ventilating windows, which look into the corridor, the corridor itself is dark, and adds little or nothing to the lightness of the rooms.

The rooms which have been recently appropriated to the sick in the lodge are much too small to be permanently used for that purpose; and if fit at all, are only fitted for the use of a much smaller number than are now placed there. It is, however, understood that this is only a temporary arrangement, and those wards should be closed.

The workhouse is known to be overerowed; and the Guardians have already seriously considered plans for enlarging the infirmary.

## Bedding and Furniture.

The bedding is almost universally a flock bed on iron bedsteads, with either iron laths or rigid iron plates. In numerous instances the beds are insufficiently filled; and in none is the flock teased, and kept in as soft a state as is desirable. As the Crimean bedsteads with their rigid bottoms have been largely introduced into this workhouse, it is very important that the beds should be full and soft; and improvement should be effected systematically in this matter. It would be much better to place mattresses, or at least a layer of cocoa-fibre matting under each flock bed. The bed coverings appear to be good and sufficient. A few hair mattresses are supplied to the inmates, but more are needed.

There is a great deficiency of furniture and of comforts under that head. There are no dressers, lockers, looking-glasses, or book-shelves. The chairs, and particularly arm chairs, are too few in number. There are not any rocking-chairs in the nurseries or lying-in wards. One to three roller towels are supplied twice a week. We were informed that they could be changed daily, if necessary; but even now they are often returned almost clean. Some of the patients have small towels; but none have been supplied by the Guardians. One or two combs were found in most of the wards; but in some the Guardians had not provided any. Most of the inmates had their own combs. No brushes are supplied; and but very few are possessed by the inmates. Soap is allowed to the ward, and not to each inmate. There were said to be some illustrated papers, but we did not find any. There were a few books in the wards. No prints are upon the walls; and the walls are universally white. A few capes are provided; and more capes and woollen nightgowns are being prepared.

The deficiency of water-closets, baths, and lavatories, has already been mentioned.

Many of these deficiencies have already been considered by the guardians, and are in course of removal.

## Cleanliness.

Cleanliness was universal. The labour bed was quite clean.

## Ventilation.

The system of ventilation varies with each part of the building; and, as in other workhouses, the chief part of it is ventilation by the windows.

In the body of the workhouse there is a ventilator in the roof, in the wards in the upper story; and in most of the wards there is a ventilator in the floor. There are also air bricks placed in the outside walls, which supply air to the floors; but as there is no special channel between the ventilator and the air-bricks, the current is often feeble, and the space between filled with dust and dirt. In a majority of instances the floor ventilators were closed.

There are also panes of perforated zinc in each window; but in many instances they were covered over; and in all the perforations were partially filled with dust and dirt. Also ventilating windows on the side of the corridor; some of which are filled with glass, and move on a central pin. Others have sheets of perforated zinc; and others a solid shutter, which can be opened at pleasure. In the lower part of the workhouse another kind has been newly introduced, viz., a window hung by hinges at the bottom, and falling down into a rack, which allows an open space at the top. The woodwork of the latter is too thick, and unnecessarily



...nishes the light; whilst the opening at the top admits too large a body  
...ce, and leads the inmates to close them.

Appendix.

BETHNAL GREEN.

In the infirmary there is the same arrangement of ventilation in the floor, ceiling, and outer windows on one side. The windows on the opposite side are made to open; but as they are closed at night, they do not sufficiently aid the ventilation.

Some of the rooms, and particularly those on the ground floor, were close. The medical officer had also found others somewhat close on his night visits; and it cannot be doubted that with insufficient means of ventilation, with ventilators too frequently closed, and with over-crowding in many wards, the ventilation must be ineffective.

There are two paid female nurses for the infirmary, another for bed-ridden men, and a fourth for bed-ridden women. There are also one pauper nurse, and one helper, in each ward. The paid nurses are understood to administer all the stimulants and medicine. More paid nurses are certainly needed. Nursing.

The medical officer is assisted by his partner; and about four hours daily are devoted to the duties of the office. Visits are always paid twice a day, and at other times, as occasion requires. Night visits are not more frequent on the average than once in a month. Medical Officer.

All the important cases are seen daily, and such others as express to the nurse or medical officer, a desire to be seen. The medical officer enters every sick ward; and sees about 100 persons daily, on the average. He also dispenses the medicine; and attends about 80 cases of midwifery in the year.

The sick cases upon the books of the medical officer are about 450, and if a diet for aged and infirm were provided that number might be reduced about one-ninth.

The guardians provide all drugs and supply extra diets, stimulants, and medical appliances whenever these extras are ordered by the medical officer. There are air beds, air cushions, and waterproof sheeting in sufficient quantity. We found two cases with bed sores, but they had been imported. Air cushions with central depressions are required.

The salary of the medical officer is 160 £. per year, including all extras.

The medical officer thinks that there should be a resident assistant, to be paid, boarded, and lodged by the guardians; and, in addition to this help, his own salary should be increased to 200 £., inclusive of extras.

There should be two additional paid day, and two paid night, nurses. Their pauper nurses are not reliable, and are fond of strong drinks.

Much more room is required in the infirmary for the sick, and in the body of the workhouse for the aged and infirm.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse: Recommendations.

1. As the necessity for enlargement of the infirmary is fully admitted, and the guardians are ready to effect it, I think the best course is,—

(A.) Raise the whole infirmary wards a storey, to the height at least of the body of the main building.

(B.) Extend the infirmary buildings in the direction of the entrance gate, and not at right angles to it, and at the same time make the wards wider.

(C.) Make proper provision for baths, water-closets, and lavatories.

(D.) Clear away the low buildings and walls between the infirmary and the main building, and erect others in a less prominent position, so as to leave a large open space before the infirmary.

2. It is desirable that the children should be removed to a district school, and the rooms now occupied by them be devoted to adults.

3. The present use of the lodge and lying-in wards, and other adjoining wards on the ground floor, must be regarded as temporary. If delay is likely to occur, the partition wall in the lying-in ward should be removed, and the inner part of ward No. 9 be no longer used as a ward. The boundary walls of the yard to the lying-in ward should be replaced by open railings.

4. New windows are required in the following wards:

Nos. 6 and 2 in north wall, No. 3 in east wall, No. 9 B, No. 3 A. One of the imbecile wards requires glass in the door.

5. The ventilation should be universally improved in the following manner:

(a.) All the ventilators should be cleaned, and kept open.

(b.) Not less than two, and in the large ward three, ventilators should be placed in the

the floor, and they should communicate with air bricks in the walls by properly made channels.

(c.) The number of ventilators in the ceiling should be increased to two or three, according to the size of the ward.

They should be placed, not only in the uppermost, but in all the ceilings, and their size should not be too great.

(d.) In the body of the workhouse the shutters in the corridor windows should be replaced by ventilating windows, which fall into racks.

Those which move on a centre pin should be plugged open to the extent of one inch.

(e.) In the infirmary, ventilating glass should be placed in all the small windows which are opposite to the large windows.

(f.) Universally, there should be an opening over each door, 18 inches by 12 inches, covered in with perforated zinc.

(g.) The ventilating windows which fall into racks should have the open space covered in with finely perforated zinc, and the frames fixed open.

(h.) The rooms in which special means are required are the following:

No. 5. Perforated glass in semi-circular window.

No. 13. Slip of perforated zinc across the top of the windows, and the windows to be plugged open  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

The new water-closet attached to No. 13 requires air bricks, and the removal of some of the panes.

The lodge requires perforated glass in the windows, and openings in the scullery and water-closet doors. The sinks should be trapped, and perforated panes, &c., as pointed out by me, should be inserted. The fan-light over the entrance should be made to open, and perforated glass should be placed in it. The lavatories near No. 34 require perforated glass. No. 7 A requires perforated glass.

Fire-places are required in Nos. 17, 42, and other wards. 34 A requires a door from the corridor, and air bricks. 23 A is to be converted into water-closets.

5½. The traps in the sinks should be made fast. The sculleries and water-closets in the infirmary and elsewhere require ventilation by removing some of the panes, and by making openings in the wooden enclosures.

6. In the present transition state of the workhouse it is impossible to apportion each paid nurse to specific duties, and therefore to state how many are strictly required; but the number recommended by the medical officer should be immediately appointed.

7. The salary and assistance asked for by the medical officer should be conceded.

8. The proposed increase in the water-closet, lavatory, and bathing accommodation in the lying-in ward, and all the body of the workhouse, should be effected as speedily as possible.

9. The defects pointed out in furniture and comforts in the wards should be supplied, viz., dressers, cupboards, lockers, bookshelves, chairs, arm-chairs, rocking-chairs with cushions, looking-glasses, capes, nightgowns, pullies, beds with racks, bed-rests; a towel, comb and brush, and piece of soap, to each person; prints, illustrated periodicals, books, &c. The walls should be tinted. Rollers are required for the towels. A proper machine for, and system of, teasing the flock beds, and keeping them soft, should be adopted.

Many of the beds are very narrow, and especially in the mothers' room, and should be immediately exchanged. None less than three feet in width should be used for mother and child.

Water beds and mackintosh sheeting, and air cushions with central depression, are needed.

10. The lower corridor in the main building should be rendered lighter by large windows and cross corridors.

The upper corridors should have benches, prints, and amusements; and the inmates enticed to use them as exercising grounds in warm weather. More ventilating panes are needed in the corridors.

11. There are some idiots who are troublesome, and should be removed to an asylum. The accommodation for this class of inmates is not satisfactory.

12. Separate wards for fever and itch cases should be provided.

13. The



13. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each room :

Appendix.

BETHNAL GREEN.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary :		14a	Women's sick ward - - -	9 or 10
1	Children's sick ward (six children and two adults).		15	Ditto - ditto - - -	3
			15a	Ditto - ditto - - -	3
2	Children's sick ward (eight children and two adults).		15b	Ditto - ditto - - -	3
			30	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7
3	Boy's sick ward (six boys and two women).		43	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
			42	Ditto - ditto - - -	18
5	Women's sick ward - - -	10 or 12	31	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
7	Children's sick ward (nine children and three adults).		33	Ditto - ditto - - -	10
			34	Ditto - ditto - - -	10
8	Women's sick ward - - -	10 or 12	34a	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 4
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	10 or 12	23	Men's sick ward - - -	10
4	Ditto - ditto - - -	10 or 12	23a	Ditto - ditto - - -	2
			24	Ditto - ditto - - -	9
			25	Ditto - ditto - - -	12
			22	Ditto - ditto - - -	14 or 15
	Body of the House :		21	Ditto - ditto - - -	13
10	Lying-in-ward (labour ward) -	1 or 2	26	Ditto - ditto - - -	12 or 13
10a	Ditto - ditto - - -	1	20	Ditto - ditto - - -	9
10b	Lying-in-ward (convalescent ward).	3	20a	Ditto - ditto - - -	3
			19	Ditto - ditto - - -	10
10c	Ditto - ditto - - -	4 or 5	17	Ditto - ditto - - -	14
11	Women's sick ward - - -	14	29	Ditto - ditto - - -	13
12	Ditto - ditto - - -	12 or 13	5	Ditto - ditto - - -	12
9	Women's insane ward - - -	4	6	Ditto - ditto - - -	13
9a	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 4	7	Ditto - ditto - - -	8
13	Women's sick ward - - -	9 or 10	8	Men's insane ward - - -	1
14	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	8a	Ditto - ditto - - -	2

No. 35.

## CAMBERWELL.

WE visited this workhouse on the 24th May 1866; and were accompanied by the master. Subsequently, we had an interview with the medical officer.

CAMBERWELL.

It is in great part an old building, which has been improved from time to time, to meet the requirements of the day; and by the improvements, and the excellence of its management, has acquired a very homely appearance.

It occupies a long and narrow strip of land; is situate in a very salubrious position; and is sufficiently open for all purposes of health.

The sick are placed in two wards in the main building, called the sick wards; but they are also found in the different wards occupied by the aged and infirm. The lunatics, to the number of 60 or 70, occupy a detached and more newly constructed building; but all the noisy and dangerous cases are sent to the asylums.

Cases of fever and small-pox are sent away; but there are infectious wards in which such cases might be placed, should necessity require it.

The children are sent to a school.

A musical entertainment is provided weekly in the dining hall, and in some of the sick rooms; and, occasionally, the master extends this advantage to the lunatics.

There are water-closets in various parts of the main building; but only one is provided for four wards, containing 46 sick inmates, a large proportion of whom are able to sit up, and walk to the closet. The pan is not of a construction which permits it to be completely emptied, although it is a novel one. There are not any proper lavatories, but those who are able wash at the sink.

There is one bath room for the use of the sick. The number of sick, properly so called, is stated to be from 30 to 40; but owing to the absence of a good and special diet for the aged and infirm, there are, with the imbeciles and lunatics, about 200 inmates upon the doctor books.

## Appendix.

## CAMBERWELL.

Size of Rooms and  
Number of Beds.

The following are the dimensions of the various wards, with the number of beds found in each room :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Main Building :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
19	Women's sick ward - -	29 6	30 7	10 11	17
23	Men's sick ward - -	30 0	18 9	11 0	12
24	Men's (sick and infirm) -	— 5 0	1 2	11 0	12
21	Ditto - ditto - -	30 2	18 9	11 0	—
		— 5 0	1 2	11 0	
		29 8	18 9	11 0	
		— 2 0	2 3	11 0	
		— 6 0	0 9	11 0	
20	Ditto - ditto - -	25 5	18 9	11 2	10
16	Women's sick and infirm ward	25 10	19 3	11 0	10
17	Ditto - ditto - -	29 7	19 5	11 0	11
		— 7 6	1 6	11 0	
13	Ditto - ditto - -	29 6	18 9	11 0	10
		— 8 3	1 2	11 0	
14	Women's lying-in ward -	29 7	18 9	11 0	9
		— 8 0	1 2	11 0	
14a	Women's labour ward -	9 9	18 9	11 0	2
		— 4 9	0 9	11 0	
7	Women's sick ward -	29 7	18 5	11 0	12
		— 8 3	1 2	11 0	
	Imbecile Wards :				
30	Male imbecile ward - -	48 0	16 5	10 2	14
31	Female imbecile ward - -	49 10	20 0	13 6	20
31a	Ditto - ditto - -	18 6	20 0	13 6	8

Hence the usual height and width of the rooms in the body of the workhouse are 11 feet and 19 feet ; and in the imbecile wards 12½ feet and 16½ to 20 feet.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed, in the different wards, are as follow :

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
	Main Building :	<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
19	Women's sick ward - - - -	53	579
23	Men's sick ward - - - -	46	510
24	Men's (sick and infirm) - - -	47	513
21	Ditto - ditto - - - -	—	—
20	Ditto - ditto - - - -	48	532
16	Women's sick and infirm ward	50	547
17	Ditto - ditto - - - -	51	563
13	Ditto - ditto - - - -	54	598
14	Women's lying-in ward - - -	60	666
14a	Women's labour ward - - - -	89	986
7	Women's sick ward - - - -	44	490
	Imbecile Wards :		
30	Male and imbecile wards - - -	56	572
31	Female imbecile wards - - -	50	673
31a	Ditto - ditto - - - -	46	624

Hence the usual floor space and cubical space are 40 to 60 superficial, and 490 to 666 cubic feet ; and the latter is somewhat less than the amount recommended by the Poor Law Board in one ward.

General character of  
Wards.

The size and general appearance of the wards are good. In the body of the workhouse there is a fairly wide corridor, on each side of which the wards are placed. Hence, in some wards there are windows on one side only ; but in 10 wards, viz., those which are at the ends of the building, there are windows on two sides.

But the wards with windows on one side only are light and cheerful, a fact due to their moderate



moderate size, the height of the windows, and the open locality. It is to be regretted that there are not usually windows leading into the corridors, since thus both the wards and the corridors might be rendered more light, airy, and cheerful; but this defect might be readily remedied.

The corridors are fairly wide, and might be used for exercise grounds when properly fitted up.

The imbecile wards are generally large, light, and airy, and some of them have windows on two sides, but others, as the day-rooms, have a blank wall separating them from the corridor.

There are usually windows over the doors.

There are feather, cocoa fibre, and hair beds; but the cocoa fibre are the most numerous. They are not so well filled, or so well picked, as is desirable; and hence they are thin and lumpy. The bedsteads are of almost all widths, and of iron, either with sacking or iron bottoms; and many are the Crimean bedsteads, with broad rigid bands of iron. The beds with sacking are fairly comfortable; but those on the Crimean bedsteads are hard, and need a fuller and better bed, and a mattress.

Bedding and Furniture.

The rugs are of white cotton, or of wool of various kinds, and for the most part are cheerful. A reddish kind, in use in some of the wards, is to be preferred. The bed covering is good and sufficient.

There is a white dimity curtain between adjoining beds, which adds to the air of comfort and privacy, and can be drawn or not, at pleasure. A testament, with large print, is also placed in a rack at each bed-head,—a course which is unusual and much to be commended. There are dressers, arm-chairs, benches with backs, bed-trays, curtains to the windows, carpeting, bed cards, warmers, small shawls, nightgowns, and ornaments in the wards; but there are none, or very few, lockers, bookshelves, looking-glasses, rocking-chairs, or cushions. Clocks, birds, and games, are found in some wards. Illustrated periodicals and some books are supplied.

Three white pottery wash-hand basins, two round towels (changed twice weekly), soap to each person, six combs, and three brushes, are provided by the guardians for a ward of 17 inmates; and the provision is somewhat similar in other wards.

Cleanliness is universal.

Cleanliness.

Much pains have been taken to render the ventilation good, and with no inconsiderable success.

Ventilation.

In sick ward No. 17, which is the best ventilated ward in the workhouse, there are nine ventilators in the ceiling, nine brick-holes in the walls, four window-panes with a portion of glass cut out at the top, one ventilator into the flue, and two fire-places.

The plan of cutting out a portion of the pane, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in depth is carried out by the master, more or less generally, throughout the workhouse, and, so far as it goes, it is good, since it allows direct access of fresh air in a small quantity, and without the intermeddling of any one. At the same time the air thus admitted is very much less than the quantity which would pass through a pane of perforated glass or an air-brick, and is by itself quite insufficient for good ventilation. There are, however, other means of ventilation; and although this one is the special favourite of the master, he has, I have no doubt, too much sense to ride his hobby hard, or to prevent a due use of other and more efficient means of ventilation.

The application of any of these methods varies much in different parts of the building; so that in some the ceiling and other ventilators are closed, or very nearly so, and the number of every kind is much less than in ward No. 17.

There is a ventilating window over the door in many of the wards, which falls very widely open into a rack. It is impossible that this could be allowed in the winter or cold weather; and it defeats itself by attempting too much.

Some of the wooden partitions in the water-closets, and in the rooms in the imbecile wards, need perforation or windows.

The imbecile wards have air-brick ventilators opening at the bottom of the room, and defended on the outside by a partial covering. In the upper rooms there is also a louvre light. The windows are hung badly for ventilation, since they hang from hinges at the upper end, and thus, when open in any degree, allow a volume of cold air to fall upon the bed underneath. There is a covering of perforated zinc over this; but the meshes are too large to allow of the opening of the window in cold weather or at night. Had the windows been higher, and the upper sash hung from hinges at the bottom, it might have been possible to have used them as ventilators in the night, by plugging them open to a small extent; but now that course would be attended with danger.

Some of the corridors are dark.

The corridors in the body of the workhouse are ventilated by ventilators in the ceiling, and many of the staircases throughout the workhouse have open railings, which allow free ventilation. There is also, at least, one outer door with louvre shutters, which aids most materially in maintaining good ventilation.

There is one superintendent female nurse for the sick in the body of the workhouse, who has from 30 to 40 patients under her charge. Nursing.

There are also two paid male and two paid female nurses in charge of the lunatics.

One pauper nurse and a helper are employed in each ward, and receive a small sum (about s. a week), with dress, and extra food.

The paid nurse gives the stimulants and medicines to the inmates.

A man is engaged as cook, who receives clothes, officer's rations, and 5 l. per year. He was formerly an inmate.

The medical officer has held the office for nearly 30 years. He receives 130 l. yearly, Medical Officer.

Appendix.  
CAMBERWELL.

with from 25 *l.* to 30 *l.* as extras for midwifery, removals, and lunacy certificates, and he provides all drugs, except cod-liver oil and quinine. His son is his deputy, and his assistant dispenses the medicines.

There are about 250 cases upon his books, of whom more than 100 are imbeciles, and aged who are placed there simply for diet. He attends daily at 11 o'clock; and, after seeing perhaps 20 patients at the surgery, visits each patient in the sick wards, and such of those amongst the aged and infirm as desire his attention, amounting to perhaps 40 or 50 more. The duty, in addition to extra visits, occupies about 2½ hours daily.

He is of opinion that the guardians should find all drugs, and a dispenser; and that his salary should be 160 *l.* per year, and extras.

He thinks that there should be a superintendent nurse to have charge of the lying-in ward, and the general superintendence of the sick throughout the workhouse; also a paid day and a paid night nurse for the two sick wards. His opinion of pauper nurses is unfavourable. There should be more bathing, lavatory, and water-closet accommodation. Hot water should be supplied throughout the workhouse, and a special dietary should be framed for the aged and infirm.

He is of opinion that more accommodation is required for the sick, and he would prefer a detached infirmary. Some of the wards, as No. 40, occupied by dissolute women, and the itch ward, are ill ventilated. A separate foul ward is required.

Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting this workhouse:

1. All ventilators should be kept open; and if the current should be usually too strong, the openings should be covered with perforated zinc. The ventilators should be without boards, and covered with perforated zinc. The old ventilators which have been closed should be re-opened.

More cut panes should be introduced, and air-bricks inserted where I have indicated. Windows should be opened on all the corridors, to swing on a central pin, and be plugged open to the extent of an inch.

The ventilating windows over the doors should be fixed to open six inches, and the opening should be covered with perforated zinc.

No. 31 room, in the lunacy ward, needs one or more louver ventilators in the roof, and the openings should be covered with perforated zinc.

Many of the small ventilators covered by perforated zinc are out of repair.

Ventilators are required in the water-closet enclosures, and another one at least is needed in the half-padded room on the men's side, where we found a dirty case.

2. More water-closet accommodation is needed for the men's wards in the body of the workhouse. Proper lavatories, with white enamelled turn-over basins, and rollers for towels should be provided if possible. More bathing accommodation is needed, with hot and cold water.

3. The beds should be more filled, and kept in proper condition. A mattress of some kind should be provided for the Crimean bedsteads.

4. More uniformity in the size of the bedsteads is desirable; and those for the sick should be furnished with a rack.

5. Lockers, looking-glasses, rocking-chairs, and cushions, should be provided.

A small towel, comb, and brush, for each sick person are desirable.

6. Skylights are needed in the corridors of the imbecile wards.

7. The games and periodicals should be uniformly supplied to each room, and some one should be charged with this duty.

8. Nurses should be appointed, as recommended by the medical officer.

9. The medical officer's emoluments should be increased; and the guardians should find drugs and a dispenser both for the workhouse and the parish.

10. A special dietary should be provided for the aged and infirm.

11. The following is the number of beds, approximately, which should be placed in each ward:

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
	Main Building:		14	Women's lying-in-ward - -	8 or 9
19	Women's sick ward - -	10 or 14	14a	Women's labour ward - -	2
23	Men's sick ward - -	10	7	Women's sick ward - -	9 or 10
24	Men's (sick and infirm) - -	10			
21	Ditto - ditto - -	9 or 10		Imbecile Wards:	
20	Ditto - ditto - -	8		Male imbecile wards - -	14
16	Women's sick and infirm ward	8	30	Female imbecile wards - -	16 or 17
17	Ditto - ditto - -	9 or 10	31	Ditto - ditto - -	6
13	Ditto - ditto - -	9 or 10	31a		



No.36.

ST. LUKE'S, CITY ROAD.

We visited St. Luke's workhouse on the 26th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer. St. LUKE'S, CITY ROAD.

This workhouse is placed upon a small plot of land, in a not insalubrious position; but it is closely surrounded by buildings. An open plot of land, belonging to the parish, lying between the workhouse and the road, which should have been left uncovered, in order to supply air to the premises, or have been used for the extension of the workhouse, has just been occupied by parish buildings. At present, most of the yards are very small, and more open space is required.

The workhouse consists practically of two parts, viz., a very old part, in which the offices, able-bodied, and most of the aged and infirm, are placed; and a new part, containing the sick wards and the wards for lunatics.

The sick, properly so termed, occupy two or three wards in the new buildings; but in each of the large wards, containing between 30 and 40 of the aged and infirm, perhaps three or four are upon the books of the medical officer. The lunatics are placed in separate apartments, and are not, as a class, placed upon the books of the medical officer.

Cases of fever and small-pox are sent to the hospitals; and there is no separate provision made for such cases. But few venereal cases are admitted into the workhouse; and the more severe cases of that class are sent to the Lock Hospital. Noisy and dangerous lunatics are sent to the asylum. The children in general are not kept in the workhouse; but the very young ones are retained in the nursery. There is not a separate sick nursery.

Itch cases amongst females are placed in a separate ward; but the male patients, of whom there are but few, are treated in the receiving ward.

The water-closet, lavatory, and bathing accommodation is throughout defective. Only one water-closet is provided for a ward with 33 inmates; a large proportion of whom are able to leave their beds. It is placed at the end of the room, and is virtually within the room. That in the lying-in-ward gave also a foul-drain smell; and we were informed that a very bad drain smell is very frequently perceived there. This requires immediate attention.

There are not any proper lavatories, but only small sinks, many of them old and in bad repair. There are not any fixed baths for the sick wards; but moveable baths are provided, and preferred.

There are about 540 inmates in the workhouse: of whom 71 are lunatics, about 100 are sick, and about 88 are placed upon the medical officer's books simply for extra diet. There is at present a special diet for the aged and infirm; but it does not provide meat daily.

The dimensions of the sick wards, with the number of beds now found in them, are as follow: Size of Rooms and Number of Beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.		Breadth.		Height.		Number of Beds.
		<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	
16	Women's sick ward - -	74	9	24	0	11	0	33
		+ 13	6	1	6	11	0	
		- 6	9	1	4	11	0	
16a	Ditto - ditto - -	- 5	0	4	9	7	6	11
		28	5	16	7	11	3	
		+ 22	10	8	4	4	3	
15	Men's sick ward - -	74	9	24	0	11	0	33
		+ 13	6	1	6	11	0	
		- 6	9	1	4	11	0	
		- 5	0	4	9	7	6	9
17	Women's lying-in ward -	28	9	18	0	10	0	
		+ 7	3	0	9	10	0	
17a	Women's labour ward -	13	3	8	3	8	6	1
18	Children's nursery (containing 8 children and 3 adults).	28	9	18	0	10	0	11
		+ 7	3	0	9	10	0	
91	Children's nursery (containing 9 children and 2 adults).	28	9	18	0	10	0	
		+ 7	3	0	9	10	0	10
22	Women's itch ward - -	23	2	11	0	11	3	2 double. 5 single 1 single.
22a	Ditto - ditto - -	10	6	6	2	11	3	

## Appendix.

ST. LUKE'S, CITY  
ROAD.

Hence it appears that the usual width and height of these wards are 10 to 11 feet, and 18 to 24 feet.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are as follow :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
16	Women's sick ward - - - - -	54	596
16a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	43	555
15	Men's sick ward - - - - -	54	596
17	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	58	581
17a	Women's labour ward - - - - -	109	929
18	Children's nursery (containing 8 children and 3 adults)	47	475
19	Ditto - ditto (containing 9 children and 2 adults)	52	523
22	Women's itch ward - - - - -	28	318
22a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	32	364

Hence it appears that the usual floor space and cubical space for adults are 43 to 58 superficial feet, and 555 to 596 cubic feet. One of the itch wards has only 28 superficial feet, and 318 cubic feet, and both have a much less quantity than that recommended by the Poor Law Board.

General character of  
Wards.

The size and general appearance of the sick wards are very good. There are windows on both sides in Nos. 16 and 15. The wards in the new building for the aged and infirm, and lunatics, have also windows on both sides; but in the latter they are small and insufficient. All these wards are of great width; and when they are used as dormitories only (and sometimes when used by day and night), the beds are arranged in central rows.

The ward leading out of No. 16, and called by us 16a, has windows only on one side and at the end. It would be much better if windows were placed on the opposite side also. The women's imbecile ward requires additional windows in one of the wards; and the wooden panes in the present windows should be replaced by glass.

The lying-in ward and nurseries are not at all equal to the sick wards. On one side is a very narrow yard, containing the swill-tubs, and the tramp wards have been built within about three feet of the other. Windows are required in the north wall, and in the partition wall between the labour room and the dormitory. A dwarf window in the south wall should also be raised to the height of the other windows. These wards are on the ground floor, and are not cheerful. They appear to be also cold.

An additional window is also required in nursery No. 18, over the lying-in ward.

The itch ward for women is dark, and certainly quite unfit for children. There are windows on one side only. Windows are needed in the north wall, and on the east and south sides of the little adjoining room, marked by us as 22a. The yard is extremely small, and these buildings should not be used.

Bedding and Furni-  
ture.

The beds are of flock almost exclusively. There is no machine for teasing the flock, neither are there other means used systematically to keep it in good order; hence it is too generally lumpy. The beds are of iron, and usually with sacking; but in some instances there are iron laths, with wide intervals.

The rugs in the lying-in ward were anything but cheerful looking. The bed covering was sufficient and good. Two round towels are usually used twice a week for a ward of 31 beds, and a small napkin is given to each inmate as a bed-tray cover, and to lie upon the lockers. Some of the inmates have their own small towels.

Only two old and broken combs, belonging to the guardians, were found in a large ward; but some of the inmates had their own comb, and a few had their own brush. No brushes were provided by the guardians.

Six or eight white wash-hand basins were in use in this large ward.

Small lockers, which also constitute seats, are placed between each bed, but they hold little; and in the case of a poor girl who could not drink her milk, we found that food in a vessel underneath the locker, and with dust on the surface. The walls are white; and although there are Scripture phrases, we did not see any prints in the sick rooms. There were pottery foot warmers, screens, bed-trays, and looking-glasses; but in general there was a bareness about the rooms; and the lying-in rooms, and nursery, were manifestly wanting in furniture and comforts. Illustrated periodicals are purchased and distributed; and there is a library, but it is old, and has long been disused.

## Cleanliness.

The linen, bed coverings, wards, &c. were clean. The rugs in the lying-in wards looked dirty; and the sinks could not, from their nature, be kept so clean as is desirable; yet there was great cleanliness throughout the sick wards generally.

## Ventilation.

There were three or four large air-brick ventilators in the wards, with shutters on the inside, some of which were shut. Also one or more of Arnott's ventilators; but several of these were useless. The means of ventilation in the large wards are not, therefore, as good as is desirable; but the great size of the rooms, and the high windows, very greatly mitigate the evil.

The



The smaller ward, 16a, is without a ventilator; and although it is built into the roof, and is lofty, it must be ill ventilated.

The ventilation of the lying-in wards and nurseries, is defective; and that of the itch ward is exceedingly bad.

There is only one paid nurse for the two or three sick wards. There is a male paid nurse for the male, and a female for the female lunatics.

A pauper nurse, receiving on good behaviour, about 5 s. per quarter, with dress and extra food, and two helpers, are employed in each ward; and of these there are about 30 in the workhouse.

The medical officer has held his present office for many years; and is satisfied with the conditions and emoluments of it.

He attends always twice in the day; and perhaps about once a month he is called to attend in the night. There are 188 persons upon his list; but as about 88 of these are placed there for dietary, there are about 100 sick whom he sees daily. He devotes about four hours daily to the workhouse; and about two hours weekly are occupied in preparing his book. He has also charge of the lying-in cases, of which there are from 250 to 300 yearly. There is not a midwife appointed by the guardians.

His salary is 150*l.* per year, including all extras. The guardians find all drugs, and a dispenser, both for the workhouse and the parish.

A sick ward for children, two proper sick wards, and more accommodation for the sick are needed. The water-closet and lavatory accommodation is insufficient. Hot water is required, but fixed baths are not necessary. There should be a general superintendent of the sick in the whole workhouse; and under her, one paid nurse for males, and another for females in the sick wards by day, and one night nurse for both. A midwife is not needed; and the present pauper nurse in the lying-in ward is a reliable person. It would be better to pay extras to medical officers for midwifery.

A paid assistant is needed by day, and another by night, for the female imbeciles.

The following are the recommendations which I make respecting this workhouse:—

1. I do not doubt that it would be better to pull down the old buildings and erect a new workhouse, on an uniform and improved plan.

2. The present infirmary building might be extended on the east side, and furnish several good rooms.

3. The present casual wards interfere with the access of light and air to the lying-in wards. It would be much better to provide lying-in and nursery wards in a new building, and use the present wards for other purposes.

The drains should receive immediate attention.

4. Proper itch wards and sick nurseries should be provided; and the use of the present itch ward discontinued.

5. Windows should be placed in the wards already indicated.

The shutters of the present ventilators should be removed, and the inner openings covered with perforated zinc. The Arnott ventilators should be repaired.

New air-brick ventilators, with perforated zinc on the inner side, are needed in all the wards; but particularly in the lying-in and nursery wards, the sick wards, the female imbecile ward, and No. 16*a.* Openings over the doors to be covered with perforated zinc, are required in No. 16*a.*, and the lying-in wards.

All the sinks and water-closets require increased ventilation, by fixing the windows open, or by inserting perforated glass.

6. Improved water-closet, lavatory, and bathing accommodation is needed universally. The itch cases should no longer use the bath common to them and to other inmates. Fixed baths as well as moveable baths should be provided; and hot and cold water supplied to all parts of the building. More than one water-closet is needed for a ward of 33, much more of 37 persons. Proper lavatories, apart from sinks, should be erected. The old stone sinks should be removed, and new ones supplied. All these should be placed further from the wards than at present, and be well ventilated, apart from the wards.

7. The furniture and comforts should be increased. Rocking-chairs are needed in the lying-in wards; and arm-chairs, cushions, capes, nightgowns, prints, books, baths, should be provided. Each sick person should have a separate towel, comb, and brush. The walls should be tinted; and some, as those of the lying-in wards, should be kept cleaner. Lockers, dressers, and cupboards are needed in some of the wards.

8. The food, when carried from the kitchen to the sick wards, should not as now be carried uncovered, but each mess should be covered, and the whole carried in covered trays. The present plan is not at all creditable to the management of the workhouse.

Joints of meat should be cut up in the sick wards; and a proper kitchen is required.

9. The nurses should be increased, as suggested by the medical officer; and in addition there should be a paid nurse for the lying-in and the children's sick wards.

Whether two assistant nurses for the imbeciles are required, I do not know.

Some of the present nurses cannot read.

10. The present plan of sometimes allowing a woman who had been confined only two to four

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four hours to walk into the next room, should be absolutely forbidden, and a proper chair with large wheels should be supplied.

11. The medical officer, in addition to his present salary, should be paid the extras allowed by the Poor Law Board.

12. A dietary should be provided for the aged and infirm, containing meat and beer daily.

13. The use of tin basins should not be allowed for the sick.

14. The following beds should be allowed in the several sick wards :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
16	Women's sick ward - -	26	18	Children's nursery (containing 8 children and 3 adults).	—
16a	Ditto - ditto - -	9 or 10			
15	Men's sick ward - -	26	19	Children's nursery (containing 9 children and 2 adults).	—
17	Women's lying-in ward - -	8			
17a	Women's labour ward - -	1	22	Women's itch ward - -	4
			22a	Ditto - ditto - -	1

#### No. 37.

ST. MARY,  
NEWINGTON.

#### ST. MARY, NEWINGTON.

We visited this workhouse on the 28th May 1866, and were accompanied by the medical officer and the paid sick nurse.

The workhouse is a comparatively new one, and is situated in a salubrious position, and on a large plot of land, some of which is in the possession and some soon to be in the possession of the guardians. At present, however, there are several rows of small houses in close contiguity with it; and the plot of land, although open on one side, is surrounded by streets of small houses.

It consists of two parts, in addition to various small more or less detached buildings, viz., the main building, in which the offices, officers, able-bodied, aged and infirm, with some imbeciles and sick are placed; and the detached sick wards, occupied by the sick, and the lunatics. Cases of itch and small pox are treated in low and small buildings, separate from the principal parts of the workhouse.

Hence the sick, properly so called, are found in the infirmary, and the itch and infectious wards just referred to.

There are also from time to time sick cases in the ordinary wards of the aged and infirm; but they are almost exclusively such as are placed upon the books of the medical officer for dietary only. The female imbeciles are placed with the sick in the infirmary, and in a ward in the body of the workhouse. The male imbeciles have separate wards and yard in the infirmary.

Cases of fever and small-pox are sent to the hospitals; but when, as at present, the small-pox hospital is full, those cases must be kept in the workhouse. There are now five cases of small-pox in temporary wards. Noisy and dangerous lunatics are sent to the asylum; but they are sometimes retained in the workhouse for a few days until the formalities have been completed.

The children are not retained in the workhouse, neither is there a separate sick nursery.

There is a very small ward for the use of female venereal cases, but some cases of that class are placed with other foul cases.

There are no day-rooms for the sick.

The water-closet, lavatory, and bathing accommodation is generally deficient. In the infirmary there is only one water-closet to three wards, containing 27 inmates. The pan is a very long one, and unless a very large quantity of water is used is apt to give rise to unpleasant smells. There are no lavatories, but only very small sinks. There is only one fixed bath for the sick, and one for the male imbeciles; and as there is not a supply of hot water



water the former is never used. Moreover the former is placed close to the outer door in an unfit position. The bath in the receiving ward is used for all cases on admission, afflicted with itch or any other disease.

Hot water is not distributed throughout the building; and as coal is not allowed during the summer months, hot water cannot be obtained from the boilers in the sick rooms. There is a supply of cold water, but it is not self-acting in the boilers in the sick wards, and must be introduced by hand several times a day.

The yard for male imbeciles is large and paved, but is bare. Most of the yards are small.

The following are the dimensions of the several sick wards, with the number of beds contained in each room:—

Size of Rooms and  
Number of Beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary:	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
—	Women's lying-in ward - {	20 2	16 2	11 7	5
3	Women's lying-in ward (convalescent ward). - {	— 5 6	1 2	11 7	
15	Women's sick ward - {	20 0	16 0	11 7	8
	- {	13 0	13 0	11 7	
4	Ditto - ditto - - {	— 5 6	1 2	11 7	1 double. 3 single.
5	Ditto - ditto - - {	20 2	16 1	11 6	
6	Ditto - ditto - - {	— 6 6	1 2	11 6	7
9	Ditto - ditto - - {	22 6	16 0	11 6	
7	Ditto - ditto - - {	20 0	16 1	11 6	8
	- {	13 0	13 0	11 3	
	- {	— 5 6	1 2	11 3	4
	- {	37 2	16 0	11 4	
	- {	+ 16 0	0 9	11 4	13
	- {	— 5 6	2 2	11 4	
8	- - - - - {	20 0	16 1	11 4	7
10	Men's sick ward - - {	37 2	16 0	11 5	
	- {	+ 16 0	0 9	11 5	12
	- {	— 5 6	2 2	11 5	
11	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 2	16 0	11 5	7
12	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 0	16 0	11 6	7
13	Ditto - ditto - - -	22 6	16 0	11 6	8
14	Ditto - ditto - - -	20 0	16 0	11 6	7
	End of Main Building:				
1	Female foul ward - - {	13 0	8 1	10 2	2
2	Ditto - ditto - - {	— 4 3	1 3	10 2	
	- {	21 0	12 3	10 2	2 double. 3 single.
	- {	— 5 3	1 1	10 2	
	Detached Building:				
20	Male foul ward - - -	19 3	16 0	10 6	4
—	Female fever ward - - {	23 4	16 7	10 3	
	- {	+ 17 10	8 4	6 0	9
	- {	— 9 9	3 3	7 0	
	Detached Building:				
—	Women's itch ward - -	23 8	11 8	11 4	4
	Main Building:				
22	Women's imbecile ward -	22 9	17 2	12 6	8

Hence in the infirmary the wards are usually  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and 14 to 17 feet wide. In other parts these dimensions vary very much.

## Appendix.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are as follows:—

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No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
Infirmary :		<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
—	Women's lying-in ward - - - - -	64	740
3	Ditto - ditto (convalescent ward) - - - - -	40	463
15	Women's sick ward - - - - -	32	376
4	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	520
5	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	517
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	40	462
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	41	457
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	518
8	- - - - -	46	521
10	Men's sick ward - - - - -	49	566
11	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	526
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	526
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	45	517
14	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	526
End of Main Building :			
1	Female foul ward - - - - -	50	508
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	36	365
Detached Building :			
20	Male foul ward - - - - -	77	806
—	Female fever ward - - - - -	39	515
Detached Building :			
—	Women's itch ward - - - - -	69	782
Main Building :			
22	Woman's imbecile ward - - - - -	49	610

Hence it appears that the usual floor space and cubical space is 32 to 69 superficial feet, and 365 to 800 cubic feet, and that out of 20 wards five offer less space than is required by the Poor Law Board. Two provide less than 400 cubic feet.

General character of Wards.

The size and general appearance of the wards in the infirmary is not satisfactory. The wards are universally narrow and small; and many are too small to be practically useful as common wards. There are, for the most part, windows on both sides; and hence had the dimensions been suitable, they might have been not only light but airy and cheerful.

The labour ward is placed on the ground floor, and is entered directly from the passage and door. There are several beds in it, in which those women are placed who await their confinement, and between whom and the woman in labour there is not a sufficient screen. This ward is moreover placed so that the women must be removed from 15 to 20 yards partly along a passage, and on a hard chair, with small and badly running wheels. The lying-in ward, to which the patient is removed after confinement, has windows on one side only, and is not cheerful.

The room for venereal cases in connection with the receiving ward is very small and unfit for the sick; and so is also the male itch ward. The wards in which the small-pox cases are now placed, being only temporarily used, do not require special description. The female itch ward was formerly a refractory ward. It is a lean-to, and unfit for the sick.

Bedding and Furniture.

The bedding is of flock, lumpy, and in bad condition. No proper system of teasing it is adopted. The bedsteads are of iron, and chiefly with sacking bottoms; and in some of the rooms, viz., lying-in room No. 15, No. 9, and No. 22, the most reprehensible practice occurs of placing beds only four feet eight to five feet in length for the use of adults.

The furniture throughout is very meagre, and fails to give an air of comfort to the rooms. There are no dressers. The lockers are very small, and made for seats, and, moreover, they are not placed in all the rooms. The night chairs are very similar to them in appearance, and are most inconvenient to the old and feeble, who need the support of an arm-chair. The tables are very small and old. Many of the chairs are old, and the number too few. There are small medicine shelves placed to each bed, but not any book-shelves. There are a few screens, also capes and cotton nightgowns. There are no looking-glasses nor bed-trays. A clock is placed on each floor. There are pottery foot-warmers, but deficient in number; and there is a deficiency of bed-pans and urinals for use in bed. There are four sheets to a bed in the infirmary; and round towels are supplied in sufficient quantity. There are three combs to three wards of 27 beds, but complaints are made of want of soap; and no paper is provided for the water-closet. Mackintosh sheeting has recently been supplied to the labour beds. There are foot baths, but no portable slipper bath. There is cocoa fibre matting



matting in the rooms, and the walls are tinted. Several beds have racks, but there are no bed rests, and tins for vomits are not supplied.

We were informed that bugs abounded in the bedding and the woodwork; but on inquiry of some of the patients, we learnt that they had sometimes seen only one or two; and perhaps the general statement was somewhat exaggerated.

Nearly all the ticks in the lying-in ward were stained.

The linen, furniture, and wards were clean.

The system adopted throughout the infirmary to effect ventilation, consists of a ventilator in the floor; and two or three ventilators in each side wall, from which a channel, covered in with perforated zinc, extends across the room. The first was efficient, so far as it went; whilst the latter was covered with paper in that part which was nearest to the outer wall. There can be no doubt that the ventilators in the ceiling are of no value beyond the external openings, and they are not sufficient in number.

The windows are made so that whilst the lower sash is immovable, the upper falls down by hinges at the bottom. It opens by the aid of sash weights; and is so arranged that when open at all it must be opened fully; and, by preventing the proper use of the window blinds, allow the sun and air to pour down upon the bed underneath. In this, as in so many other arrangements, the absence of an intelligent and efficient superintendent is seen, but as the master and matron are leaving, it may be hoped that the guardians will now obtain efficient officers.

There is also an opening into the chimney flue; but in some cases it is bricked up.

All the infirmary rooms are very close and ill ventilated at night.

The ventilation of all the small buildings, particularly of the wards attached to the receiving wards, and the two itch wards, is exceedingly bad, whilst that of the temporary infectious wards is very defective.

The ventilation of the small water-closets and sinks is bad.

The nursing arrangements are unsatisfactory. There is only one paid nurse to the whole of the infirmary, except the male imbecile ward, and for the out and distant buildings already referred to. She had about 120 patients under her care.

There is a male superintendent of the male imbeciles, who has charge of 24 inmates in the imbecile wards, four in the body of the workhouse, and three in the infirmary.

A pauper nurse and a helper are appointed to nearly all the wards, but there is not a specially appointed night nurse.

The paid nurse is presumed to give both the medicines and the stimulants. The former she usually effects, but sometimes the patients do not get the medicine at the right time. The latter she so far performs as to pour them out, and place them by the bedside of the patients. She has had reason to fear that sometimes the pauper nurses have taken some of the stimulants, since she has found them under the influence of drink.

The medical officer has about 140 persons upon his list, of whom one-half are placed there for dietary only. There is no special dietary for the aged and infirm; but one should be provided for them, as well as for imbeciles and suckling women.

He attends at the workhouse daily, and twice a day on about alternate days. He walks through every ward, and speaks to about 25 to 30 cases daily, including those whom he knows to be seriously ill, and all others who desire it. He is called to the workhouse at night, perhaps 20 times in the course of the year.

The guardians provide drugs and a dispenser, both for the workhouse and the parish.

His salary is 105*l.* yearly, beside about 11*l.* for certificates of lunacy, and permanent disability of paupers. He thinks that the salary should be 200*l.* per year, inclusive of all extras.

An additional paid day nurse, and a paid night nurse, are required for the infirmary; and a paid superintendent day nurse should be appointed for the body of the workhouse.

Additional accommodation is needed for the sick. Pulleys, padded rooms, water-closets, lavatories, baths, hot water, &c., are required. Whatever stimulants and diet he orders for the sick are provided.

The time devoted to his duties is about three hours daily, of which about one-half is spent in actual visits to the sick.

This comparatively new workhouse has probably a greater number of defects, remediable and irremediable, than any other new one in London, and in its construction, arrangement, furnishing, and management, is amongst the least creditable to the guardians and their officers.

The following are the recommendations which I offer respecting it:—

1. It is doubtful whether the wards in the infirmary can ever be made light, airy, cheerful, and well ventilated, and be fit for both day and night rooms.

It would be better, if possible, to throw two wards into one, in some cases, so as to enlarge the rooms.

As additional accommodation is needed, it would be better to build another infirmary (in the rear of the present one, probably) with rooms of proper dimensions, and with proper bathing and other conveniences, and retain the present building for imbeciles and others, who would use the wards as dormitories, and day rooms separately.

The interval between the two buildings should then be properly laid out as yards.

All the cases, except such as small-pox, which are now scattered about in small buildings, should be brought together, and proper accommodation found for them.

2. Bath rooms, lavatories, and additional water-closets, should be provided in the infirmary

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Ventilation.

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firmly by building projections at the landings on each floor, and have side windows for ventilation.

3. The use of the female venereal ward and the two itch wards should be discontinued. Proper infectious wards and padded rooms should be built.

4. The ventilation should be universally improved.

(A.) The ventilators in the ceiling should be opened at the side walls, and a clear space left. The inner opening of the air brick should be covered perpendicularly with perforated zinc.

(B.) Air bricks are required, or should be multiplied, in many of the wards, including the infectious wards, itch wards, venereal wards, &c.

(C.) The ventilation of the floors should be increased.

(D.) Perforated glass should be placed in one of the uppermost panes of glass in the windows on both sides.

(E.) Openings should be made over each door, and covered in with large perforated zinc.

(F.) Windows are required in the lying-in room, in blank walls from staircases; No. 7, No. 10, both containing windows, with small-pox cases, and to be plugged open; female itch ward, &c. The skylight in the female itch ward to be made to open.

(G.) The windows in the water-closets, and sinks, should be fixed open, or perforated zinc placed in them.

(H.) Openings are required in the lobby enclosure in the small-pox wards.

(I.) In many rooms it will be needful to bore holes in the bottom of the doors.

(J.) The passages and corridors should be better ventilated.

5. Proper furniture, comforts, and appliances, should be provided; as dressers, cupboards, lockers, bed rugs, bookshelves, tables, benches with backs and cushions, arm chairs with cushions, rocking chairs with cushions, in the lying-in ward; a proper chair with large wheels for the removal of labour cases, Mackintosh sheets, air cushions, water beds, bed pans, and urinals, warmers, prints, useful and entertaining books, spectacles for the old, soap, combs, and brushes; large screen in labour ward, flannel nightgowns, and games.

6. The position of the labour and lying-in wards should be changed. The nurse's room would be a better labour ward.

7. Hot water should be distributed throughout the infirmary and workhouse, both in summer and winter, and the range boilers should supply themselves with water.

8. The present arrangements for nursing must be transient at present, until the sick are properly collected together; and the number of paid nurses should be increased to at least the extent suggested by the medical officer and nurse. No practicable arrangement could at present be satisfactory.

9. The emoluments of the medical officer should be increased; and he should be paid the extras provided by the Poor Law Board.

10. Greater cleanliness should be observed in reference to the beds in the lying-in ward, and the destruction of bugs.

11. The use of the short bedsteads should instantly cease, and proper arrangements should be made to keep the flock in a soft state.

12. The bed cards should contain the prescriptions.

13. The windows throughout the infirmary are too high, and should be lowered.

14. Day rooms, in which the meals might be eaten, and warming or cooking kitchens are needed.

15. The rooms are at present greatly over-crowded, having reference not only to the cubical space, but to the smallness of the rooms, and thereby the impossibility of placing so many beds as the cubical space might allow; and the following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Number of Beds.
Infirmary:			End of Main Building:		
--	Women's lying-in ward - -	4 or 5	1	Female foul ward - - -	1
3	Ditto - ditto (convalescent ward).	4 or 5	2	Ditto - ditto - - -	3 or 4
15	Women's sick ward - -	2 or 3	Detached Building:		
4	Ditto - ditto - -	4 or 5	Male foul ward - - -		
5	Ditto - ditto - -	6	20	Female fever ward - - -	4
6	Ditto - ditto - -	5	—		5 or 6
9	Ditto - ditto - -	2 or 3	Detached Building:		
7	Ditto - ditto - -	11	Women's itch ward - - -		
8	- - - - -	5	—		4
10	Men's sick ward - -	11	Main Building:		
11	Ditto - ditto - -	5	Women's imbecile ward - - -		
12	Ditto - ditto - -	5	22		6 or 7
13	Ditto - ditto - -	5			
14	Ditto - ditto - -	5			



## WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM.

WE visited the Wandsworth and Clapham workhouse on the 29th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master.

This workhouse is comparatively modern, and occupies a large plot of land in a very salubrious locality.

The main body of the workhouse consists of two blocks of building, which lie parallel to each other. There is also a third parallel block which was formerly the infirmary, and which is now used for aged and infirm, and for cases after treatment in the infirmary.

The present infirmary lies at the rear of all these buildings, and at right angles to them.

Hence the sick, properly so called, are placed in a detached infirmary; whilst those who have more or less recovered, and others who, amongst the aged and infirm, are temporarily ill, are not to be found in other parts of the workhouse.

Cases of fever and small pox are always sent to the hospitals. Noisy and dangerous lunatics are sent to the asylums, and only about six lunatics are now in the workhouse. The imbeciles are not warded separately. The children are sent to a separate school, but there are now about 70, of various ages, in the workhouse. Venereal cases are sent to the Lock Hospital, and only very few are retained in the workhouse. These, and cases of itch, when such apply, are placed in two small wards on the ground floor on each side of the infirmary.

There are not any day rooms for the use of the sick. There are not any lavatories, properly so called, but only very small sinks, upon which a basin may be placed, and one person wash at a time. The water-closet accommodation is insufficient, there being only one water closet on the two upper floors for 24 beds in two or three rooms. There is only one fixed bath for the use of the infirmary. Hot and cold water is distributed throughout the buildings, but the supply of cold water is insufficient, a defect attributable probably to deficient size of cisterns, and to the high-pressure supply.

The yards are enlivened by flower beds, but the walls are much too high.

There are in the workhouse 524 inmates, of whom 76 are children, 19 are able-bodied, and 224 on the medical officer's books.

The following are the dimensions of the several sick wards, and of two or three aged and infirm wards, taken as examples, with the number of beds which the rooms contain :—

Size of rooms and number of beds.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	Infirmary :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
100	Men's sick ward - - -	{ 19 10 — 7 0 4 0	{ 20 8 1 2 4 0	{ 11 6 11 6 7 6	{ 8
101	Men's sick ward - - -	{ 20 0	{ 10 2	{ 11 6	{ 4
102	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 20 0	{ 10 2	{ 11 6	{ 4
103	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 15 3 — 5 6 — 4 3	{ 16 2 3 3 3 3	{ 11 6 11 6 7 2	{ 5
104	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 41 0 — 7 0 — 4 0	{ 20 8 1 7 4 0	{ 11 6 11 6 7 6	{ 19
105	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 15 3 — 5 6 — 4 3	{ 16 2 3 3 3 3	{ 16 0 16 0 7 2	{ 5
106	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 20 4 + 20 4 — 7 0 — 4 0	{ 20 8 16 8 1 3 4 0	{ 11 6 2 0 13 6 7 6	{ 9
107	Ditto - ditto - - -	{ 20 4 + 20 4 — 7 0	{ 20 8 16 8 0 4	{ 11 6 2 0 13 6	{ 10
118	Women's sick ward, same size as No. 106.	- -	- -	- -	9
119	Women's lying-in convalescent ward, same size as No. 107.	- -	- -	- -	10
117	Women's labour ward, same size as No. 105.	- -	- -	- -	4
116	Women's sick ward, same size as No. 104.	- -	- -	- -	19
114	Women's sick ward, same size as No. 103.	- -	- -	- -	5
113	Women's sick ward, same size as No. 102.	- -	- -	- -	4

Appendix.  
WANDSWORTH  
AND CLAPHAM.

Number of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
Infirmary— <i>continued</i> .					
112	Women's itch ward, same size as No. 101.	-	-	-	4
111	Women's sick ward, same size as No. 100.	-	-	-	8
Old Infirmary :					
75	Men's infirm ward - -	26 0	14 0	9 6	9
74	Ditto - ditto - -	20 0	16 0	10 0	7
76	Ditto - ditto - -	20 0	16 0	9 9	7
		+20 0	12 0	2 0	
78	Ditto - ditto - -	26 2	14 2	9 0	
		+26 2	10 10	1 8	9
94	Women's infirm ward, same size as No. 76.	-	-	-	7
94a	Women's infirm ward (small room adjoining).	13 7	9 8	8 9	2
95	Women's infirm ward (small room adjoining), same size as No. 78.	-	-	-	9
93	Women's ditto - ditto same size as No. 75.	-	-	-	8
92	Women's ditto - ditto same size as No. 74.	-	-	-	7
Main Building :					
15	Women's infirm ward - -	27 8	22 6	9 8	11
16	Ditto - ditto - -	26 4	22 6	9 11	13
26	Ditto - ditto - -	27 8	23 4	9 5	13
		+27 8	17 4	3 0	

Hence it appears that the usual height and width of the wards in the infirmary are  $11\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ft., and  $16\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by  $20\frac{1}{2}$  ft.; in the old infirmary  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft. to  $11\frac{1}{2}$  ft., and 11 ft. to 16 ft.; and in the body of the workhouse  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft. to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  ft., and 17 to 23 ft.

The floor space and cubical space, allotted to each bed, are as follows :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to Each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to Each Person.
Infirmary :		<i>Sup. ft.</i>	<i>Cub. ft.</i>
100	Men's sick ward - - - -	48	562
101	Ditto - ditto - - - -	51	584
102	Ditto - ditto - - - -	51	584
103	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	506
104	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	500
105	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	712
106	Ditto - ditto - - - -	44	586
107	Ditto - ditto - - - -	42	548
118	Women's sick ward - - - -	44	586
119	Women's lying-in convalescent ward - - - -	42	548
117	Women's labour ward - - - -	54	890
116	Women's sick ward - - - -	43	500
114	Ditto - ditto - - - -	43	506
113	Ditto - ditto - - - -	51	584
112	Women's itch ward - - - -	51	584
111	Women's sick ward - - - -	48	562
Old Infirmary :			
75	Men's infirm ward - - - -	40	384
74	Ditto - ditto - - - -	46	457
76	Ditto - ditto - - - -	46	514
78	Ditto - ditto - - - -	41	423
94	Women's infirm ward - - - -	46	514
94a	Women's infirm ward (small room adjoining) - - - -	65	574
95	Ditto - - - ditto - - - ditto - - -	41	423
93	Ditto - - - ditto - - - ditto - - -	45	432
92	Ditto - - - ditto - - - ditto - - -	46	457
Main Building :			
15	Women's infirm ward - - - -	56	547
16	Ditto - ditto - - - -	45	452
26	Ditto - ditto - - - -	50	578



Hence the usual floor space and cubical space in the infirmary is 42 to 51 superficial feet, and 500 to 712 cubic feet; and in other parts 41 to 56 superficial feet and 384 to 578 cubic feet, and in six wards the latter is less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

The size and appearance of the wards is generally speaking good. The wards Nos. 104 and 116 are the best, since the room is of the size of the two rooms above, and of the three below it. They have windows on both sides, and are sufficiently wide and lofty, and consequently are light and cheerful. The division of this space underneath into three rooms by  $\pi$  partitions lessens the value of the whole. In the two rooms thus placed side by side there is an intervening blank wall, and both are narrow, and neither of them cheerful.

The division of the same space above into two rooms still permits two fairly good rooms, each having windows on both sides. The small room (No. 114) on each side of the building, which is situate at the back, is not cheerful.

The chief defect in the rooms is the height of the windows from the floor, so that the tallest person cannot look out of some of them; as, for example, No. 114. This gives them the appearance of a well, or prison cell, and prevents the appearance of lightness and cheerfulness which would exist if the windows were properly placed.

The water-closets are built in the wards adjoining the passages by brickwork and wooden frames.

The wards in the old infirmary are narrower and less lofty, but, as they have windows on both sides, they are fairly light and cheerful.

The wards in the body of the workhouse are wide and of fair height, and are light and cheerful.

The bedding is of flock, upon cocoa fibre mattresses and iron bedsteads, with, for the most part, nearly rigid broad iron bands. The flock is deficient in quantity, and is universally lumpy. No proper system of teasing the flock is adopted, and it is only the presence of the mattresses, which, with this defect and the rigid bedsteads, allows the beds to be tolerable.

Appendix.

WANDSWORTH  
AND CLAPHAM.General character  
of wards.Bedding and fur-  
niture.

There is, in general, a deficiency of furniture, since there are not any dressers, properly so called, in the infirmary; neither are there any lockers, but only one or two small cupboards in each ward. A very narrow shelf runs round the room, which is used for medicine and books, and similar purposes. Looking glasses are supplied to the women's wards, and in future they will be placed, I believe, in the men's wards. There are no prints, bed trays, or games; but some foot and chest warmers, capes, shawls, water cushions, chairs, and foot tubs are found, whilst two round towels and some tea cloths are supplied thrice a week, and two combs, a piece of soap, but no brush, to a ward.

Illustrated periodicals are not supplied by the guardians, but others give a few copies and some tracts weekly. There is a deficiency in entertaining books. Wooden bowls, as well as metal basins, are still used here for washing, and are very small. Pottery plates and mugs are used, but the soup is served in large tin pannikins. There is one hip bath, but no slipper bath, for the infirmary. Seven excellent hair bed rests are supplied.

Every part of the buildings was clean.

Cleanliness.

There are four air-bricks in the upper part of the walls, which communicate with outer air-bricks, and a similar number exist at the bottom. The upper ones have gratings on the inside, and are for the most part open, whilst those at the bottom are covered in with perforated zinc, which has been painted over, or by shutters only, which are almost universally closed.

Ventilation.

In the partition wall between two of the female rooms already mentioned there are air-bricks.

There are also openings in the ceiling of such rooms as are built in the roof, but they are covered with wooden shutters, and are generally closed. There are not any ventilators in the floors of the infirmary.

The new part of the main body of the workhouse, containing wards Nos. 15, 16, &c., have no ventilators of any kind in the front wall, but there are perforated zinc frames in this and in the old infirmary building.

I cannot doubt, notwithstanding these arrangements, that the ventilation is generally defective. The great height of the windows and the ventilators in the ceiling of some of the wards, as No. 114, with the fewness of the open air-bricks, the closure of the ventilators at the bottom of the floors, and the absence of this kind of ventilation in the new wing, are opposed to good ventilation.

The ventilation is further impeded by a wooden lobby projecting into the room of the infirmary, which is closed in at the top, and prevents ventilation from the passages. That of the water closet is also very defective, and no special arrangements exist for the ventilation of the corridors.

## Appendix.

WANDSWORTH  
AND CLAPHAM.

Certain of the rooms, as No. 114, were close, even at the time of our visit.

There are only two paid nurses for the whole workhouse, one of whom is chief, and the other her assistant, and they are not each allotted to particular wards. They pour out the stimulants, and give them into the charge of the patients.

## Nursing.

The pauper nurses cannot read; and when they give the medicines, it is chiefly from verbal directions.

## Medical officer.

The medical officer is assisted by his son, and pays a daily visit to the workhouse. Thrice a week he sees every case in the new infirmary; once a week he sees those in the old infirmary; and about once a fortnight the inmates in the body of the workhouse. The number upon his books is about 280, of whom about 120 are entered solely for diet. He sees about 160 at each visit in the infirmary, and 20 to 30 at the surgery. The time occupied is about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours daily in paying the visits, and about half an hour in dispensing the medicines. The guardians find all drugs, and pay the medical officer 100*l.* a-year, and 30*l.* per year for extras, whilst the latter dispenses the medicines. He is of opinion that the guardians should provide a dispenser, who might perform other duties also; and pay the medical officer 120*l.* per year, and extras.

Besides a superintending nurse for the whole establishment, there should be two paid day nurses and one paid night nurse for the new infirmary, and one paid day nurse for the old infirmary. The ventilation is fairly good, and the sick cases do well.

## Recommendations.

The following are the recommendations which I offer in reference to this workhouse:—

## 1. The ventilation of the infirmary should be improved.

(A.) Take away all doors to ventilators, and substitute perforated zinc; and in the lofty rooms a piece of perforated zinc must be placed across the window at the top, and the window plugged open one inch.

(B.) Open the lobbies at the top; or, still better, take them away, and substitute screens.

(C.) Open the windows in the water-closet, or put in perforated zinc; and bore holes in the doors, both at the top and bottom.

(D.) Put in perforated glass into the staircase windows.

(E.) Cover the lower half of the perforated zinc panes, and leave the upper half open.

(F.) Insert ventilators in the front walls of the new wing.

(G.) Make openings over the doors, and cover them with perforated zinc.

## 2. Lower the walls of the infirmary yards, and add open railings. Also build a shed, or verandah.

## 3. Place proper lavatory, water-closet, and bathing accommodation, on each floor; and remove the water-closets from the rooms.

4. Supply defects in furniture and comforts, as dressers, lockers (between each two beds), book-shelves, bed-trays, arm-chairs, night-chairs with arms, cushions, benches with backs and cushions, rocking-chairs with cushions in the lying-in ward; prints, illustrated periodicals, interesting books; more and larger foot and chest warmers, proper moveable slipper-baths and foot-baths, pottery wash-hand basins, instead of small wooden bowls, and a comb and brush to each sick person.

The flock beds should be perfectly teased; and bedsteads with elastic laths should be provided as soon as possible. Bedsteads with racks are also required.

## 5. A proper warm kitchen, for warming and cooking certain kinds of food, is required; and better arrangements should be made for the food to be hot when the patients eat it.

## 6. The paid nurses should administer both the medicine and the stimulants.

The number of paid nurses should be increased in the manner suggested by the medical officer.

## 7. The medical officer should see every case in the new infirmary daily, those in the old infirmary and the ordinary wards throughout the workhouse more frequently than at present. A dispenser should be provided by the guardians, and the salary of the medical officer should be increased.

8. It is desirable that cases of itch and venereal disease should be kept further apart from the ordinary sick cases; and if they were removed from their present wards, the partition wall between the rooms should be pulled down; and, unless there are special reasons to the contrary, all the three rooms on the ground floor should be made into one.

## 9. The labour-room is too distant from the lying-in ward.



10. The following in the number of beds which should be placed in each ward :

Appendix

WANDSWORTH  
AND CLAPHAM.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
Infirmary :			Old Infirmary :		
100	Men's sick ward - - -	6 or 7	75	Men's infirm ward - - -	6
101	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	74	Ditto - ditto - - -	5
102	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	76	Ditto - ditto - - -	5
103	Ditto - ditto - - -	2 or 3	78	Ditto - ditto - - -	6
104	Ditto - ditto - - -	14	94	Women's infirm ward - - -	5
105	Ditto - ditto - - -	2 or 3	94 a	Women's infirm ward (small room adjoining.)	2
106	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7	95	Ditto - ditto - - -	6
107	Ditto - ditto - - -	6 or 7	93	Ditto - ditto - - -	6
118	Women's sick ward - - -	6 or 7	92	Ditto - ditto - - -	5
119	Women's lying-in convalescent ward.	6			
117	Women's labour ward - - -	2			
116	Women's sick ward - - -	14			
114	Ditto - ditto - - -	2 or 3			
113	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	15	Women's infirm ward - - -	9 or 10
112	Women's itch ward - - -	3	16	Ditto - ditto - - -	9 or 10
111	Women's sick ward - - -	6 or 7	26	Ditto - ditto - - -	10
			Main Building :		

No. 39.

## HAMPSTEAD.

WE visited the Hampstead workhouse on the 30th May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and medical officer.

HAMPSTEAD.

It is admirably situate, on very high ground, and in a most salubrious locality.

The building in its present state has existed for about 17 years, but some parts of, and its general plan of construction, date from a much earlier period. It consists mainly of one building, which contains nearly all the inmates of the workhouse, the chief offices, and the offices of the magistrates and parish authorities. There is a small block of buildings in the rear, devoted to the relieving officer and his duties, and containing also receiving and infectious wards.

Hence there is not a detached infirmary, and the sick are placed chiefly in three special wards in the body of the workhouse, known as the infirm ward, surgical ward, and sick or medical ward. The infectious wards are used rather for suspicious cases, and for the purpose of separation, than for infectious cases.

Cases of fever, small-pox, and venereal disease are sent to the hospitals. If a case of either of the former were retained, even for a day, it would be placed in the infectious ward, and only doubtful cases of the latter are ever admitted. Noisy and dangerous lunatics are sent to the asylum, and there are only seven cases of imbeciles in the workhouse.

There are no day-rooms for the sick. Water-closets, baths, and lavatories have recently been erected in the corridors, and hot and cold water is found in all the sick rooms.

There are now 112 inmates, of whom 24 are able-bodied, 81 aged and infirm, and seven children. Of the whole about 90 are on the medical officer's books.

The following are the dimensions of the several sick rooms, with the number of beds now found in each ward :

Size of rooms and number of beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
In Principal Building :		<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
8	Women's sick ward - - -	28 5	17 8	9 11	8
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	28 5	17 10	9 11	8
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	28 5	17 10	10 0	8
	Women's lying-in-ward - - -	22 4	9 11	13 0	4
5	Children's sick ward - - -	11 3	9 11	10 0	
1	Men's sick ward - - -	28 5	17 9	10 1	8
2	Ditto - ditto - - -	29 0	15 5	10 0	9
3	Ditto - ditto - - -	16 9	9 11	10 1	3
In Detached Building :					
12	Women's infectious ward - - -	24 11	10 8	10 2	3
10	Men's infectious ward - - -	24 11	10 8	10 2	3

Appendix.  
HAMPSTEAD.

Hence it appears that in the sick wards the usual width and height are 10 feet, and 10 to 17½ feet.  
The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are as follow :—

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space allowed to each Person.
	In Principal Building :	Sup. Feet.	Cub. Feet.
8	Women's sick ward - - - - -	63	622
7	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	63	628
6	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	63	633
	Women's lying-in-ward - - - - -	55	554
5	Children's sick ward - - - - -	56	558
1	Men's sick ward - - - - -	63	636
2	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	497
3	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	55	558
	In Detached Building :		
12	Women's infectious ward - - - - -	89	901
10	Men's infectious ward - - - - -	89	901

Thus the usual floor space and cubical space in the principal wards is 50 to 63 superficial feet, and 497 to 636 cubic feet ; and in one ward the latter is scarcely less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

General character of wards.

The size of the sick rooms, generally speaking, is not objectionable ; but as the outer windows are at the end, and the only other source of light is a small fanlight over the corridor door, they are not so light, airy, and cheerful, even at this season of the year, as is desirable, and in the winter season must be dark.

The other rooms are too narrow ; and they also have windows on one side only. The new lying-in ward and children's sick room are much too small.

The infectious wards are small and very narrow, and having small windows are not light, airy, and cheerful.

There is a corridor running the length of the building, but it is closed in at the top by glass, and is not wholly open at the ends. It is irregular in form.

Bedding and furniture.

The bedding is of cocoa fibre, upon iron bedsteads with sacking, and is not so frequently picked, and thereby kept in so elastic a condition, as is desirable ; but the sacking, in a degree, lessens this evil.

There are cupboards, a few dressers, night-stools without arms, arm-chairs, shawls and flannel gowns, air beds, air cushions and waterproof sheeting, bed-pans, foot warmers, a few prints, a clock, &c. ; but no lockers or bookshelves. Four white basins, and one brush, are used for two female wards. Each person has a separate towel provided by the guardians and a comb of their own or of the guardians. Some of the inmates have their own brush. Soap is supplied to the ward as a whole. Spectacles are given where required. There is a library ; and we saw a few books. Illustrated periodicals are given by benevolent persons.

There are one or two unusual things in the wards. A narrow rack runs round the whole ward which is divided into compartments to hold a board, on which the prescription paper, medicine, and wine, are placed, and which may be removed at pleasure, all round the room. The night-stool in the male wards has also a white wash-hand basin placed as a cover to the pan ; and which is used as a wash-hand basin. The lower part of the night stool opens in front, and contains various articles, as shoes, &c.

Cleanliness.

The most perfect cleanliness was found everywhere throughout the building.

Ventilation.

The ventilation of the workhouse is very defective, and although efforts have been made to improve it, the construction of the buildings has prevented satisfactory results.

It has been already stated that there are outer windows at one end, and an imperfectly arranged corridor at the other, and between them the wards extends nearly 30 feet. Moreover, in all the top rooms the windows are small and low ; and leave a considerable space vacant between the top and the ceiling. Hence it will always be difficult to effect a proper movement of the air from the corridor to the windows. At present the ventilation practically depends upon the windows, and as the outer windows must be closed at night, the fanlights into the corridor have been judiciously fastened open. There are, however, two other plans, which have been adopted, one of which has not been without benefit, viz., ventilation into the roof in the in the upper rooms, and the application of Watson's syphon tubes in the middle rooms. In the former there is a circular ventilator in the ceiling, which, as it allows too large a current of air to enter at once, is closed ; and a lattice-work opening into the roof from the corridor. The latter have not been found effectual, and are ill placed.

The new water-closets and sinks have been so placed that a direct current of air cannot be passed through them, and are now partly, and were until very recently entirely, closed in



in by wood and glass. They are, moreover, too narrow, and are like narrow and deep cupboard or wells.

The corridor is not an efficient ventilator, since it is not open at the ends directly to the outside, but only at an angle to a small outer door, and since it is not open to the air above.

A new lying-in room, and children's nursery, have been made without any special ventilator, except the fanlights. On one side a folding wooden partition has been placed, which whenever in use would be closed, and further lessen the ventilation.

Hence, notwithstanding the efforts which have been made to improve the ventilation, they have not been intelligently directed.

The paid nurse, who appeared to be a very intelligent person, stated that the ventilation in the women's wards was not bad; and that the smell at night was scarcely more than that of an ordinary bedroom.

The medical officer was of opinion that the ventilation was very bad.

A paid nurse from St. Thomas' has recently been appointed at a salary of 25 l. per year: Nursing.  
She has charge of all the sick wards.

The medical officer has held his present position for about a year; and, in addition to the workhouse, he has a district. He keeps an assistant, but, so far as the workhouse is concerned, only for dispensing. Medical officer.

His duty is to attend at the workhouse on alternate days; but he attends more frequently, and nearly daily. He usually visits every ward at each time, but sometimes he concludes his visits of the whole on the following day. Night visits are very rare; perhaps six times a year. He sees about 36 cases at each visit; and from one to three hours (average perhaps two hours) are devoted to the duties on each occasion. There are upon his books 67 sick, and 24, amongst the aged and infirm, for diet.

His salary is 40 l. for the workhouse, and 100 l. for the district; and he finds all the drugs and the dispenser. He is of opinion that, under another arrangement, the guardians should find drugs and a dispenser, both for the workhouse and the district, and the salary (in addition to this) for the workhouse should be 100 l. per year, with extras for midwifery.

In addition to the present paid nurse, there should be a paid night nurse.

Many of the wards, and particularly the infectious wards, are unsatisfactory. He said that the cases do not do as well in the workhouse as out of it; and that he had known instances of persons dying poisoned from their own emanations and that of others. This latter statement is one which reflects most gravely upon the guardians, and should, if proved, receive their earnest attention; but nothing was presented to my notice which would have led me to infer the possibility of such a result.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse: Recommendations.

1. The first attention should be given to the subject of ventilation.

(A.) The windows in the upper rooms should be raised the height of one pane.

(B.) Two or more ventilators should be placed in each ceiling, and covered with perforated zinc.

(C.) Circular ventilators, 10 inches in diameter, should be placed in the floor, and kept open.

(D.) Both of the two latter should communicate with the outer air by air-bricks.

(E.) Air-bricks, 9 in. by 6 in., covered with perforated zinc, should be placed in the outer walls, over the windows; and others, 12 in. by 6 in., should be placed at the top of each partition wall.

Air-bricks, to admit air from the corridors, are required at the bottom of the rooms.

(F.) Windows should be opened into each room from the corridor, and fixed open to a small extent.

(G.) Holes should be bored into the bottom of the doors of the wards and the water closets and sinks.

(H.) The water-closets and sinks should have the enclosures cut down, or opened as low as possible.

Air-bricks should be inserted, and a free circulation of air in all directions must be effected, both at the top, and at the bottom of the closets.

(I.) The corridors should have louver shutters running along the top, with the skylight placed horizontally; and a direct opening to the outer air, in the direction of the corridor, should be effected at each end. Without these alterations, no sufficient improvement in the ventilation can be effected.

(K.) Air-bricks are needed in the front wall of the lying-in ward, and openings should be made in the folding partition.

(L.) The proper course, with regard to the infectious wards, is to throw down the partition wall, and make the two rooms into one. If, however, each be used for one or two cases only, and that temporarily, it may suffice to have the present windows raised, a new window put in at the end, and a ventilating window on the staircase, with air-brick ventilators, covered with perforated zinc, at the top and bottom of the partition wall.

The water-closet adjoining must be properly ventilated.

Appendix.  
HAMPSTEAD.

2. A paid night nurse should be appointed.
3. A re-arrangement with the medical officer should be effected at a convenient period, so that the guardians may provide drugs and a dispenser, and the medical officer attend daily.
4. More accommodation for the sick is needed.  
A better lying-in room and nursery are required, as also wards where offensive cases can be kept separate from the others.
5. Lockers, illustrated periodicals, chest warmers, looking-glasses, rocking-chairs for the lying-in ward, and other articles of furniture are needed.
6. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
In Principal Building :			1	Men's sick ward - - -	8
8	Women's sick ward - -	8	2	Ditto - ditto - - -	7
7	Ditto - ditto - - -	8	3	Ditto - ditto - - -	2
6	Ditto - ditto - - -	8	In Detached Building :		
	Women's lying-in ward - -	3	12	Women's infectious ward -	2 or 3
5	Children's sick ward - -	2	10	Men's infectious ward - -	2 or 3

No. 40.

### WEST LONDON.

WEST LONDON.

WE visited the West London Workhouse on the 31st May 1866, and were accompanied by the master and the deputy medical officer.

This workhouse, which is situate on a large plot of land in a salubrious locality, has been so recently built, that it has been opened only a few months, and the internal details are still in process of arrangement.

It consists of a large main building in which the offices, officers, able-bodied, aged and infirm, and some purely sick cases are placed ; of detached lunacy wards, and of a principal and back infirmary for the sick.

Hence the sick cases upon the books of the medical officer are found in the two infirmaries, in the lunacy wards, in one sick ward for women, and in the several infirm wards in the body of the workhouse.

The back infirmary was built for infectious cases, but cases of fever and smallpox are sent to the hospitals, and the wards are used for other classes.

Cases of venereal disease are retained, and treated in the back infirmary. Noisy and dangerous cases of lunacy are sent to the asylum, but they may be retained for 24 or 48 hours *in transitu*. There are not any padded rooms. Sick lunacy cases are treated in the lunacy wards.

The children are placed in separate schools, except those who are very young or sick, and the latter, suffering from eye disease, itch, or other diseases, are treated in the back infirmary.

There are not any day-rooms for the sick, although some in the infirmary, as Nos. 19 and 29, were built for day-rooms. There are baths, with hot and cold water, on each floor ; but as there is a deficiency of cupboards, and no water-shoots, the room is occupied by buckets and other utensils, and dirty water is emptied down the bath ! There are no lavatories in the infirmary, except single basins, placed on a wooden frame, in some of the corners. There are sinks of exceedingly bad construction, which allow dirt to accumulate ; and, being imperfectly trapped, allow a dangerous drain-smell to prevail.

Water-closets are placed on every floor.

There is a kitchen in which baked meat, potatoes, and light puddings are cooked. Boiled meat and other foods are cooked in the kitchen of the workhouse.

The yards are large and good, and, when properly planted, will be pleasant to the inmates.

The



The following are the dimensions of the wards in the two infirmaries, and in certain wards in the body of the workhouse which contain sick :

Appendix.

WEST LONDON.  
Size of rooms and  
number of beds.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Beds.
	INFIRMARY :	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	<i>Ft. in.</i>	
23	Women's sick ward - -	19 10	13 11	13 0	5
22	Ditto - ditto - -	14 0	11 0	13 0	3
25	Ditto - ditto - -	10 5	13 7	13 0	2
26	Ditto - ditto - -	11 0	13 7	13 0	3
		—5 6	1 2	13 0	
19	Ditto - ditto - -	18 10	15 6	13 0	
		—5 9	1 10	13 0	6
18	Women's lying in ward -	19 6	13 10	13 0	
17	Women's labour ward -	14 0	10 10	13 0	2
2	Men's sick ward - -	13 10	11 0	13 0	3
2 a	Ditto - ditto - -	19 9	14 2	13 0	5
2 b	Ditto - ditto - -	13 2	15 6	13 0	4
2 c	Ditto - ditto - -	10 8	13 8	13 0	2
		—4 0	1 0	13 0	
29	Ditto - ditto - -	19 0	15 6	13 0	
		—5 0	2 0	13 0	5
29 a	Ditto - ditto - -	14 0	15 6	13 0	4
29 b	Ditto - ditto - -	14 0	10 11	13 0	2
	BACK INFIRMARY (For Infectious cases) :				
26	Children's sick ward - -	22 6	11 10	13 0	{ 3 double 2 single
26 a	Ditto - ditto - -	13 0	12 0	13 0	
26 b	Nurse's room, used as sick ward.	9 0	8 0	13 0	1
27	Women and children's sick ward.	22 6	11 10	13 0	4
27 a	Women's sick ward - -	13 0	12 0	13 0	3
	PRINCIPAL BUILDING :				
22	Men's sick and infirm ward -	30 0	17 0	13 0	11
23	Ditto - ditto - -	23 6	17 0	13 0	8
25	Ditto - ditto - -	30 0	17 0	13 0	11
15	Women's sick and infirm ward	30 0	21 4	13 0	{ 9 double 1 single
14	Ditto - ditto - -	16 10	17 0	13 0	
13	Ditto - ditto - -	22 4	17 0	13 0	{ 1 double 7 single
12	Ditto - ditto - -	30 0	17 0	13 0	
16	Ditto - ditto - -	30 0	17 0	13 0	10
18	Ditto - ditto - -	20 6	17 0	13 0	6
19	Ditto - ditto - -	30 0	21 4	13 0	14
11	Ditto - ditto - -	30 0	17 0	13 0	10
11 a	Ditto - ditto - -	17 2	16 9	13 0	6
9	Ditto - ditto - -	16 11	16 9	13 0	6

Hence it appears that the usual width and height of the wards are 11 to 15½ ft. and 13 ft. in the infirmary, whilst the usual width in the back infirmary and main building is 12 ft. and 17 ft. respectively.

The floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed, are as follow :

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
	INFIRMARY :	<i>Sup. feet.</i>	<i>Cub. feet.</i>
23	Women's sick ward - -	55	718
22	Ditto - ditto - -	51	667
25	Ditto - ditto - -	70	919
26	Ditto - ditto - -	48	620
19	Ditto - ditto - -	47	610
18	Women's lying-in ward -	67	877
17	Women's labour ward -	76	986

Appendix.  
WEST LONDON.

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	Floor Space Allowed to each Person.	Cubical Space Allowed to each Person.
<i>Infirmary—continued.</i>			
2	Men's sick ward - - - - -	51	659
2 a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	56	727
2 b	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	663
2 c	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	71	921
29	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	57	740
29 a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	54	705
29 b	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	76	993
BACK INFIRMARY. (For infectious cases):			
26	Children's sick ward - - - - -	33	432
26 a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	52	676
26 b	Nurses' room (used as sick ward - - - - -	72	936
27	Women and children's sick ward - - - - -	66	865
27 a	Women's sick ward - - - - -	52	676
PRINCIPAL BUILDING:			
22	Men's sick and infirm ward - - - - -	46	603
23	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	50	649
25	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	603
15	Women's sick and infirm ward - - - - -	34	438
14	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	620
13	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	42	548
12	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	663
16	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	663
18	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	58	755
19	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	46	594
11	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	51	663
11 a	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	48	623
9	Ditto - ditto - - - - -	47	614

Hence it appears that the usual floor space and cubical space allotted to each bed are, 49 to 76 superficial feet, and 610 to 993 cubic feet in the infirmary; 33 to 52 superficial feet, and 432 to 676 cubic feet, in back infirmary; 34 to 58 superficial feet, and 438 to 755 cubic feet in body of workhouse; and in only one ward is the cubic space less than that required by the Poor Law Board.

General character  
of wards.

There is a great deficiency of large and good sick wards in the infirmaries, since all the wards are small, and some are adapted only to a single serious case, requiring unusual quietude and seclusion.

The end wards have windows on the side and end; but as a corridor runs along one side, the others have outer windows only on one side, whilst in most of the rooms there is a window at some distance above the door, which moves on a central pin, and opens into the corridor. The great height of the rooms, with their small size, however, prevent any appearance of darkness, but they are not so cheerful as is desirable. The windows, moreover, are placed so high that the patients cannot look at the ground.

The wards in the back infirmary, although built for fever wards, are less desirable than those of the infirmary, since they have the disadvantage of blank walls throughout, and of ill-ventilated bath-rooms and water-closets at the end.

The lunacy wards are very good.

The wards in the body of the workhouse are too narrow, and some of them have windows only at the end, and on a part of the side; but others have windows on three sides, and in general they are light and cheerful.

Bedding and fur-  
niture.

The bedding is of flock on iron bedsteads, with sacking or iron laths. The flock is sometimes too small in quantity, and is never properly soft and teased. The rugs are good, and generally cheerful; and the bed coverings are sufficient and good.

The furniture is very deficient; but the defect is, as we were informed, in process of removal.

There is deficiency of cupboards, both for the crockery and smaller utensils of the wards; and to permit the buckets and larger utensils to be kept out of the wards. There are no dressers. Some oldish lockers are found in the men's infirmary wards, and in the body of the workhouse, but not in the women's infirmary wards. There are very few chairs, and many are old. There are no book-shelves. Tables, and benches with backs, are not as plentiful as is desirable. Rocking chairs are not found in the lying-in ward and the nursery. There is no carpeting. There are extremely few prints and looking-glasses; illustrated periodicals are not supplied regularly, and in rotation, and the books are old and deficient. There are no slippers, or games. The walls are white.

A towel and piece of soap are supplied to each patient in the infirmary; but the former



is not hung up, or placed upon a towel horse. One comb is supplied to each ward; and many of the inmates have their own comb. Brushes are not given, except to the children. One clean sheet is supplied weekly; and there are shawls and cloaks; but no night flannel gowns. There are bed pans, foot warmers, water beds, air cushions, and waterproof sheeting and screens.

Every part was quite clean, except the sinks, as already mentioned.

The arrangements for ventilation consist of large circular iron ventilators in the outside walls, which communicate with large openings in the ceiling, covered with largely perforated zinc, and, with the wind in a certain quarter, cause large volumes of air to fall upon the patients. In many wards there also circular ventilators in the floor; but in almost every room they were shut. There are also Arnott's ventilators in many of the rooms, some of which were in order, and acting; and the windows are very large, and near to the ceiling. There are ventilating windows into the corridors, which were, perhaps, in a majority of instances, shut; and there are open fireplaces.

The paid nurse and the deputy medical officer, who often visited the wards in the night, stated that the rooms were not close, and, in their opinion, the ventilation was good. Several of the rooms were, however, close at our visit: and as the system of ventilation is mainly that of opening windows, it is, to my mind, clear that the ventilation is very variable with the weather, season, and direction of the wind; and is often insufficient.

The ventilation of the water closets, sinks, and bath rooms, was not so good as is desirable (although good sense was shown in having them unenclosed at the top), and particularly those at the end of the wards in the back infirmary.

The ventilation of the corridors was also obstructed by barriers, which were entirely closed, or had moveable window frames, which were kept closed.

There is only one paid nurse for the sick, and she had been only recently appointed. There are two appointed for the lunatics, but they had not arrived.

The nurse for the sick had charge of about 40 patients in the infirmary, and 14 in the back infirmary, and had to visit the sick cases in the body of the workhouse once or twice daily.

The wards in the infirmary being very small, one unpaid nurse and one helper were appointed to, perhaps, two wards.

The paid nurse distributes the stimulants each morning to the patients, and, as far as possible, administers the medicine. She had had some reason to believe that the unpaid nurses obtain stimulants from the patients. The unpaid nurses, who give the medicines, cannot read, and we found that errors were being committed by them.

The medical officer is aged and infirm, and visits the workhouse about once a week; but the work is performed by his deputy. He had had charge of the former workhouse, and on the removal of the latter he was, as we were informed, invited by the guardians to remove to the same neighbourhood, and still to retain his nominal position. His salary is 110*l.* per year, with about 12*l.* per year for extras in midwifery cases; and he pays for all the drugs, at a cost of about 30*l.* per year, and pays his deputy 105*l.* per year. Hence he retains his office at a pecuniary loss to himself.

The deputy attends from about nine to one and from six to seven o'clock daily, and pays a night visit perhaps once a week, so that his whole attendance averages about five hours daily. About 30 cases attend him at the surgery, and he sees about 120 in the workhouse daily. The total number of cases upon his books is about 250, of which about one-third are placed there for dietary only.

He visits every sick and lunacy ward daily, and each infirm ward on alternate days; but each case of serious sickness, wherever it may be placed, is seen daily.

He is of opinion that a paid day nurse is required for the infirm wards, but a night nurse is not needed, either in the infirmary or the body of the workhouse. Pauper nurses have given the wrong medicines on some occasions.

Padded rooms are required.

All extra food, stimulants, and medical appliances, are provided when ordered by him.

He stated that the medical officer was of opinion that the guardians should provide all drugs, and pay 150*l.* a year.

The following are the recommendations which I make in reference to this workhouse:

1. If it be possible, some of the partition walls in both the infirmaries should be taken down, and larger wards made out of smaller ones.

It would also be much better, if it were possible, for the whole corridor to be taken from the back infirmary, and the whole floor be made into rooms, with outer windows on each side. It is in contemplation, I believe, to enlarge the infirmary by extending this back infirmary, but it would be unwise to extend the present defective arrangement.

2. Further accommodation for the sick and day rooms are required, and the infirmary should be enlarged.

Rooms for wet and dirty cases are urgently needed.

3. Wherever windows may be placed in the partition walls, without interfering with classification, it should be done, and they should be plugged open a little, as, for example, in 22, 25, 26, 19, bath room, 2, 2 c, 2 b, bath room and water closet, 26 b, 27, 27 b, 33, 25, 14, 12, 18, 11 a.

## Appendix.

WEST LONDON.

4. The outside ventilators should be covered with largely perforated zinc, so as to diminish and divide the volume of air admitted, but the ventilators in the ceiling should not be lessened, or kept covered.

The Arnott ventilators should be repaired. The ventilators in the floor should always be kept open. Perforated glass should be placed in the central pane of the top row of panes, in some of the windows in each ward, in all the corridors, and in all the water closets, sinks, and bath rooms.

The windows opening to the corridors should be plugged open one inch, and the windows across the corridors should be always open.

The bottom of the doors in the closets, bath-rooms, and some of the wards, should be bored with holes.

Air bricks are needed in the upper part of the walls in some of the wards.

Some efficient means must be taken to perfectly ventilate the water-closets and bath-rooms, at the end of the wards in the back infirmary, or it would be better if these rooms could be extended into projections on either side.

5. The defects in the furniture and comforts, already pointed out, should be supplied without further delay. Lavatories are needed. Cocoa fibre matting should be placed upon all the iron lath bedsteads, and the flock should be teased in a systematic manner. Slipper, hip, and foot baths, should be supplied, as also night chairs, with arms; and water shoots should be built.

6. A paid day nurse should be appointed to the aged and infirm wards, one paid night nurse for the two infirmaries, and another for the aged and infirm wards.

The paid nurses alone should give both stimulants and medicines.

7. A new arrangement is needed, in reference to the medical officer, so that the acting officer should be also the responsible medical officer. He might be appointed medical officer conjointly with the present one, if that should be desired.

The guardians should find all drugs, and the salary should be increased.

The system pursued here of dividing one pint of wine into eight glasses is peculiar, and clearly dates back to the period before the introduction of the imperial pint of 20 oz., 10 glasses should be obtained of 2 oz. each from the pint.

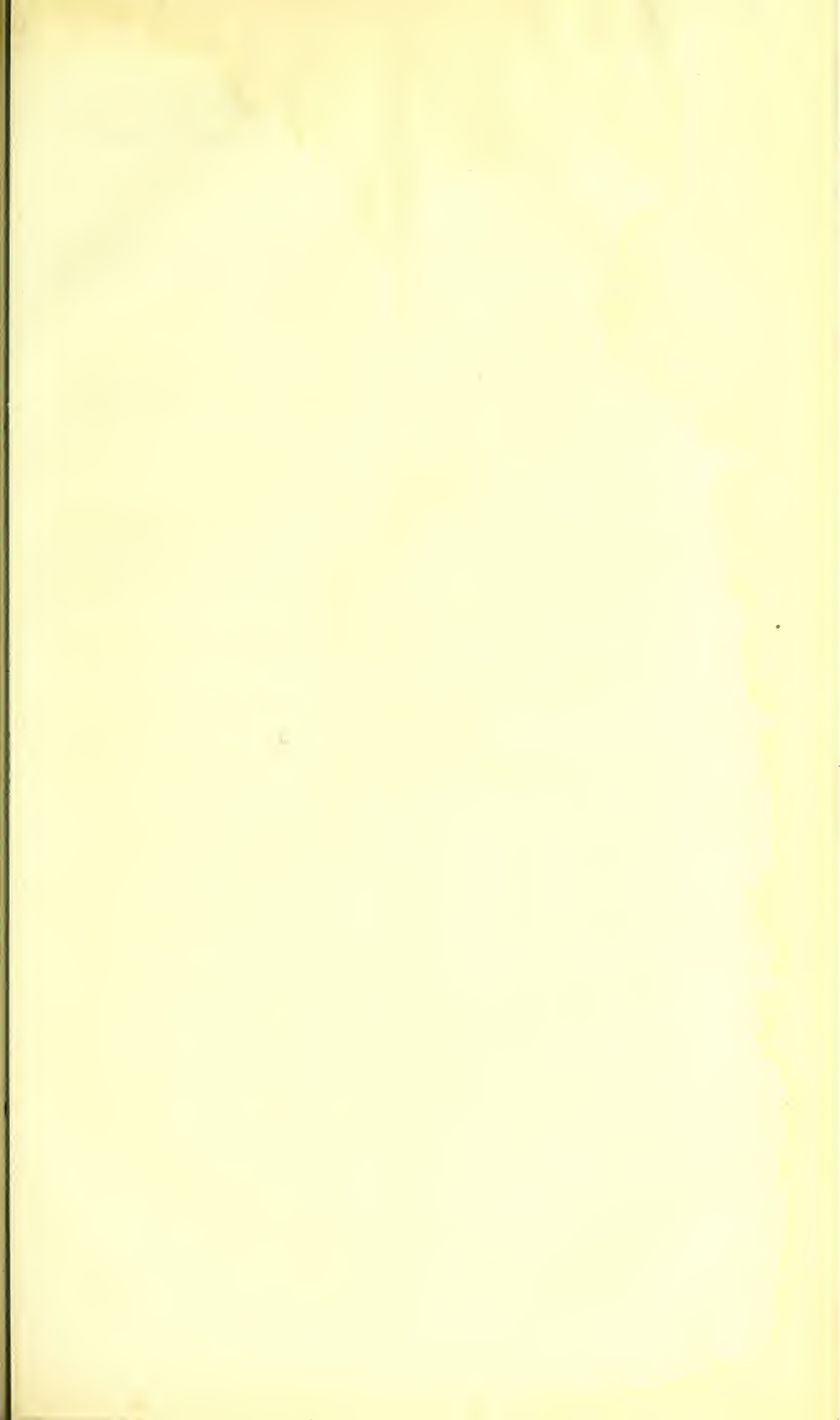
8. It is most desirable to endeavour to lower the windows, or raise the floors, so that the inmates may look out.

9. Padded rooms should be prepared.

10. The following is the number of beds which should be placed in each ward:

No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.	No. of Ward.	Class of Inmates, or Purpose to which Appropriated.	No. of Beds.
	<b>Infirmary:</b>			<b>Back Infirmary—continued.</b>	
23	Women's sick ward - - -	3 or 4	26b	Nurse's room (used as sick ward)	
22	Ditto - ditto - - -	2	27	Women and children's sick ward	
25	Ditto - ditto - - -	1	27a	Women's sick ward - - -	
26	Ditto - ditto - - -	1 or 2			
19	Ditto - ditto - - -	4 or 5		<b>Principal Building:</b>	
18	Women's lying-in ward - -	3 or 4	22	Men's sick and infirm ward -	9 or 10
17	Women's labour ward - - -	1 or 2	23	Ditto - - ditto - -	7
			25	Ditto - - ditto - -	9 or 10
2	Men's sick ward - - -	2			
2a	Ditto - ditto - - -	4	15	Women's sick and infirm ward -	10
2b	Ditto - ditto - - -	2 or 3	14	Ditto - - - ditto -	4 or 5
2c	Ditto - ditto - - -	1	13	Ditto - - - ditto -	6 or 7
29	Ditto - ditto - - -	4	12	Ditto - - - ditto -	9 or 10
29a	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	16	Ditto - - - ditto -	9 or 10
29b	Ditto - ditto - - -	3	18	Ditto - - - ditto -	6
			19	Ditto - - - ditto -	9 or 10
	<b>Back Infirmary</b>		11	Ditto - - - ditto -	9 or 10
	(For infectious cases):		11a	Ditto - - - ditto -	4 or 5
	Children's sick ward - - -		9	Ditto - - - ditto -	4 or 5
26a	Ditto - ditto - - -				





METROPOLITAN  
WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES, &c.

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COPY of the REPORT of Dr. *Edward Smith*,  
LL.B., F.R.S., Poor Law Inspector and Medical  
Officer to the Poor Law Board, on the METRO-  
POLITAN WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES and SICK  
WARDS.

(*Viscount Enfield.*)

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